

THE READER

A REVIEW OF LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND ART.

No. 124, Vol. V.

Saturday, May 13, 1865.

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{ Stamped, Fivepence.

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PARIS.—AGENT FOR THE READER,
MR. J. ROTHCHILD, 43 Rue Saint-André-des-Arts, who will receive Subscriptions and forward Books intended for Review.

GERMANY.—MR. F. A. BROCKHAUS,
Leipzig, having been appointed Agent for Leipzig and Northern Germany, it is requested that intending Subscribers will send their names to him. Books for Review may also be forwarded to him for enclosure in his Weekly Parcel.

PRUSSIA.—MESSRS. ASHER & Co.,
Berlin Agents for THE READER, will receive the names of Subscribers, and take charge of Books intended for Review.

NORTH OF EUROPE. MESSRS. ONCKEN,
10 grosser Barstrasse, Hamburg, will supply THE READER, receive Books intended for Review, and forward Communications for the Editor.

INDIA: MADRAS.—MESSRS. GANTZ
Brothers, 175 Mount Road, Madras, will register names of Subscribers on account of THE READER. Annual Subscription, including postage, 13 rupees.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE, LONDON, 67 and 68, HARLEY STREET, W.

CANDIDATES FOR CERTIFICATES IN SPECIAL SUBJECTS at the Midsummer Examinations, are required to send in their names to the Dean, before June 15th.

Printed Particulars may be obtained at the College Office.
E. H. PLUMPTRE, M.A., Dean.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE, LONDON, 67 and 68 HARLEY STREET, W.

TWO PROFESSORS' SCHOLARSHIPS, giving the advantage of a Free Education at the College, will be open to competition at the end of the present Term.

The Names of Candidates, who must be between the ages of Thirteen and Fifteen, will be received up to June 15th.

E. H. PLUMPTRE, M.A., Dean.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE, LONDON, 67 and 68 HARLEY STREET, W.

PATRONS:—

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

H.R.H. THE PRINCESS OF WALES.

Visitor—THE LORD BISHOP OF LONDON.

Principal—THE DEAN OF WESTMINSTER.

Lady Resident—MISS PARRY.

The HALF TERM for the Classes in the College and School will begin on Monday, May 22nd.

Prospectuses may be obtained on application to Mrs. Williams, at the College Office.

E. H. PLUMPTRE, M.A., Dean.

RAILWAY PASSENGERS should BUY
MURRAY AND CO.'S BOOK OF INFORMATION for RAILWAY TRAVELLERS and RAILWAY OFFICIALS. Illustrated with Anecdotes, &c., by R. BOND, Superintendent Great Western Railway, Newport. Price 1s. 6d., at all railway book-stalls.

In reference to new publications, the "Flaneur" of the Morning Star of May 8, writes: "Messrs Murray & Co., of Paternoster Row, have just published a little book which is useful and really amusing at the same time, although it only professes to be 'Information for Railway Travellers.' It is nothing in the style of Bradshaw, and will not tell you how to get from Euston Square to St. Petersburg, or where the carriages are to be changed for Holyhead. It is a book telling you all about railways, railway liabilities, the rights of passengers, the duties of passengers, the best way to travel, the various rates of charge for passengers, cattle, luggage, &c.; in fact, telling you everything a traveller can want to know about railways in general, without coming into competition with the special services performed by Bradshaws and Time-tables. A little too highly flavoured with scraps of poetical quotation, the book is nevertheless very readable, has many amusing anecdotes, and might of itself beguile a railway journey."

MURRAY & CO., 13 Paternoster Row, London.

PRIVATE TUTOR.—A Clergyman, M.A.
of Cambridge, residing near Richmond, experienced in Tuition, and possessing highly satisfactory Testimonials, is desirous of meeting with a Pupil.—Address, Beta, Hiscocks & Son's Library, Richmond, Surrey.

PHILOSOPHICAL TRANSACTIONS.

The FELLOWS of the ROYAL SOCIETY are hereby informed that the THIRD PART of the PHILOSOPHICAL TRANSACTIONS, Vol. 154, for the year 1864, is now published, and ready for delivery, on application at the Office of the Society, in Burlington House, daily, between the hours of Ten and Four.

WALTER WHITE, Assistant Secretary R.S.

Burlington House, May 13, 1865.

ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.—

The ANNIVERSARY MEETING will be held at Burlington House, on MONDAY, the 22nd inst., at One P.M.

The DINNER will take place at Willis's Rooms on the same day, at 6.30 P.M., Sir RODERICK I. MURCHISON in the Chair.

Names of Members who intend supporting the Chair on this occasion should be left at the Society's Office, or at Willis's Rooms, if possible, on or before Saturday, the 20th. Dinner charge, One Guinea, payable at the Door; or Tickets to be had at 15 Whitehall Place. The friends of Members are also admissible to the Dinner.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS.—THE

R EXHIBITION OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY IS NOW OPEN. Admittance (from Eight to Seven o'clock) One Shilling. Catalogue, One Shilling.

JOHN PRESCOTT KNIGHT, R.A., Secretary.

FRENCH GALLERY, 120 PALL MALL.

THE TWELFTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF PICTURES, the Contributions of Artists of the French and Flemish Schools, IS NOW OPEN Admission, 1s. Catalogue, 6d.

ARCHITECTURAL EXHIBITION,

9 CONDUIT STREET, REGENT STREET, NOW OPEN. Admission, One Shilling; Season Tickets, Half-a-crown, admitting to this and to all the Lectures and Conversazioni. Lecture for Tuesday, May 10th, at 8 P.M. "Incidents of Old English Architecture, Civil and Ecclesiastical, especially in Small Towns and Rural Districts." By A. J. B. BERESFORD-HOPKES, Esq., President of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

JAMES FERGUSON, F.R.S., } Hon.
JAMES EDMESTON, F.R.I.B.A. } Secs.

NEWSPAPER PRESS FUND.—Gentle-

men proposing to dine with the friends of this Institution, under the Presidency of CHARLES DICKENS, Esq., at Freemasons' Hall, on Saturday, the 20th of May inst., are requested to communicate their intention to the Secretary not later than Tuesday next, the 16th inst.

By order, HENRY G. WARREN, Hon. Sec.

6 Beaufort Buildings, Strand, W.C., May 1, 1865.

WORKING MEN'S CLUB & INSTITUTE

UNION, 150 STRAND, W.C.

The Council intend holding a SERIES of SOCIAL MEETINGS in the LOWER HALL, EXETER HALL, commencing on TUESDAY, MAY 16, when his Grace the DUKE of ARGYLL will preside, and THOMAS HUGHES, Esq., will give a short Address on "STRIKES and CO-OPERATION."

These Meetings are intended to afford to Working Men, and persons of higher social position, an opportunity for friendly intercourse and interchange of opinions upon subjects of social and national interest. The Rooms will be open each Evening at Seven P.M., for general conversation. The Chair will be taken at Eight P.M. Free Discussion will be invited.

The following Noblemen and Gentlemen have expressed their willingness, in compliance with the request of the Council, to preside or take part in subsequent Discussions: The Earl of Shrewsbury and Talbot, the Earl of Lichfield, Lord Lyttelton, Earl Grosvenor, M.P., Viscount Ingestree, M.P., Viscount Enfield, M.P., the Dean of Westminster, the Right Hon. Sir John Pakington, M.P., Bart., the Right Hon. W. F. Cowper, M.P., A. H. Layard, Esq., M.P., Rev. F. D. Maurice, M.A., J. M. Ludlow, Esq., M.A., Hugh Owen, Esq., and other gentlemen.

Admission to the Public, 6d., or 2s. 6d. the Series. Tickets to be obtained at the Office, 150 Strand.

The Council earnestly appeal for Subscriptions and Donations in aid of the general purposes of the Union, without which their power of usefulness will be seriously curtailed.

HENRY SOLLY, Secretary.

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CRYSTAL PALACE.—SECOND GRAND

OPERA CONCERT and AFTERNOON PROMENADE, THIS DAY (SATURDAY).—Principal Artists, Miss Laura Harris, Madlle. Redi, Madlle. Bettelheim, Signor Sacchi, Signor Bossi, Signor Scasole, and Signor Emanuele Carrion. Solo Pianoforte, Mdlle. Marie Wieck. Chorus of 150 voices. Conductor, Mr. Manns. Admission, 5s.; or, by Guinea Season Tickets, free.

ATLANTIC AND GREAT WESTERN

RAILWAY OF NEW YORK, PENNSYLVANIA, AND OHIO.

Mr. THOMAS W. KENNARD, the Engineer in Chief, having arrived in England, a MEETING of the holders of Bonds, Debentures, and Shares of the Company, will be held at the LONDON TAVERN, on MONDAY, the 15th inst., at One o'clock precisely, to receive a Report from Mr. KENNARD, on the completion of the Main Line, and as to the general position and prospects of the undertaking.

S. MORTON PETO,

Chairman of the London Board of Directors.

No. 5 Westminster Chambers, Victoria Street,

Westminster, May, 6th, 1865.

ATLANTIC AND GREAT WESTERN

RAILWAY.

CERTIFICATES OF DEBENTURE.

The Coupons from the above Certificates of Debenture, due 15th May, will be paid at the Consolidated Bank, Limited, and must be left two clear days at the Offices of the Company for examination. If sent by post, a cheque for the amount will be remitted in course.

5 Westminster Chambers, Victoria Street, Westminster, or 26 Throgmorton Street, London, E.C.

May, 1865.

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SPECIAL NOTICE

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LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

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The EIGHTH BONUS will be declared in January, 1867, and all With-Profit Policies in force on the 30th June, 1866, will participate. ASSURANCES EFFECTED BEFORE JUNE 30, 1865, will participate on two Premiums, and thus receive a WHOLE YEAR'S ADDITIONAL SHARE OF PROFITS OVER LATER POLICIES.

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W. J. VIAN, Secretary.

13 MAY, 1865.

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At the ANNUAL MEETINGS held on the 8th April at Liverpool it was stated, as the

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FIRE PREMIUMS amounted to £108,597
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CAUTION.—CHLORODYNE.—IN

CHANCERY. Vice-Chancellor Sir W. P. Wood stated that Dr. Browne was undoubtedly the inventor—eminent hospital physicians of London stated that Dr. J. Collis Browne was the discoverer—of Chlorodyne: that they prescribe it largely, and mean no other than Dr. Browne's.—See Times, July 13, 1864. The public, therefore, are cautioned against using any other than Dr. J. COLLIS BROWNE'S CHLORODYNE. It is affirmed by overwhelming medical testimonials to be the most efficacious medicine for

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THE READER.

SATURDAY, MAY 13, 1865.

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Either literature has taken a vaster and more remarkable stride in this country than it has ever been known to do since letters were invented, or our great monitor has become indifferent and weary, and not merely notices volumes which would have been formerly consigned to the waste-paper basket, but speaks of them with a rapturous ecstasy scarcely dignified or permissible even if Shakespeare's plays or Homer's poetry were the theme. Now-a-days, every volume reviewed is so singularly and exceptionally good, its style is so pure, its incidents so vivid, its superiority to all predecessors in the same walk so evident and marked, that we are driven to ask where the bad books go to, and how it is that none of them come under the once vigorous lash of *The Times*. For, with every disposition to think well of our own age, we cannot believe either that there are no dunces or pretenders left, or that none of them rush into print. With the firm conviction, therefore, that biographical compilations occasionally smack of paste and scissors; that histories, however excellent, are still amenable to the laws of comparison; that books of travel are not always redolent of humour and brimming over with original observation; and that the incidents in three-volume novels are occasionally stupid, far-fetched and over-strained; it is as

puzzling as gratifying to find day after day that the particular specimen of its class selected for notice by *The Times*, is not merely free from the faults laid at its rivals' door, but bids fair to establish itself as an English classic. Accepting gratefully the goods provided by the gods, let us humbly thank our great teacher for having, in a single week during last month, called public attention to eight works of genius, not one of which could by any possibility be improved. But the leading journal is by no means satisfied with heaping superlatives upon books it professes to criticise. The author is personally complimented on his labours in the cause of humanity; and the emotions his work excites are dwelt upon with the minuteness and enthusiasm of an impulsive school-girl writing to a sentimental friend. Thus, Mr. Tom Taylor "has rendered a service to English literature by supplying a great biographic void with his full and admirable life;" and "the great soldier of the eighteenth century is indebted to Mr. Carlyle for the best conceivable history of his military exploits and his domestic administration." It is no disparagement to Mr. Taylor's copious biography to say that "supplying a void," whatever that may mean, is not the precise verdict which will be passed upon it by posterity—Mr. Carlyle himself would readily admit that "the best conceivable" savours of hyperbole if applied to any human effort.

When, however, from the nature of the subject, such as "English Text Books," it is impossible to be rapturous, the inevitable praise takes a practical form, and the imperative mood is used in regal fashion, thus: "Let the public know that these men are giving their time and brains for nothing, and that those who subscribe their annual guinea are sure to get their money's worth, and a good deal more." It may be urged that, to the public generally, the terms upon which authors or editors work is of less consequence than the result of their labours as given to the world; and it was, perhaps, an afterthought to this effect which caused the elegant rider about "getting money's worth and a good deal more" to be framed. If it were the primary object of criticism to flatter authors and put money into publishers' pockets, the ingenuity of the foregoing could not be overrated, any more than could another notice of a work on "Farm Homesteads." *The Times* is positively hysterical in its admiration here, and is moreover so carried away by its feelings as to repeat itself verbatim! The review in question was first published in its columns on the 3rd of February, and a patient public have thus been apprised twice within three months, of this treatise on agricultural buildings, that it is "a magnificent quarto," "is original in conception," that its "information is conveyed in the most clear, full, yet shorthand (*sic*) manner," "we cannot too warmly commend," and "in a nutshell we have the considerations which govern the choice." The "clear, shorthand manner," and the involved sentence last quoted, denote the painful effect of enthusiasm run wild. Our language is not rich and full enough for the unapproachable perfection it is called upon to convey, and it is in the highest degree creditable to the culinary versatility of *The Times* that it should be able to give us the same dish with even the limited variety it contrives to infuse into it. For, after all, "Buy

this book, it's the best of its kind, past, present, or future!" would seem to be the never-failing burden of the song; and when we read of a history of "The Indian Mutiny," that its "rounded periods, elaborate sentences, and weighty words give dignity and elevation to a well-arranged and lucid narrative," and that it is "interesting, attractive, instructive, trustworthy, and enlightened," we fancy it means much the same thing as when the writer of "A Short American Tramp" is praised for his "keen observation, the fun and humour with which he illuminates his pages, the jolly glee with which he goes about his business, and the ecstasy with which he plunges into" something else. When a colonel in the Guards publishes his impressions of the American War, it is not enough to praise his book and bespatter its writer with adulation. The class to which he belongs must be elevated for his sake, and "the professional author" is playfully warned how "lucky" it is for him "that shyness or dislike to the bore of publishing prevents" soldier-tourists more frequently rushing into print, and ousting him from the field. But *The Times* is most seriously affected by the perusal of a fiction, which from its thrilling description would seem to be a second-rate production of *The London Journal* school. "There is scarcely any creation," we reverentially read, "more striking or more wonderfully sustained than the character" of its hero, and—but we really cannot transcribe the final recommendation given to this book. That it is a "remarkable" production is as much a thing of course as that Mr. Jefferson Brick was "one of the most remarkable men in this country, Sir," and it is only the insight vouchsafed concerning the painful self-sacrifice involved in the reviewing of novels that signalizes this hymn of praise from some of its fellows. When a professional critic declares that perusing a fiction "has murdered sleep in many a past night, and is likely to murder it in many a night to come," it is greatly to be feared that he is not strong enough for his place. When the fat boy in *Pickwick* promised old Mrs. Wardle "to make her flesh creep" by what he had to tell, the old lady fainted away; and when *The Times* reviewer gives as a reason for "cordially recommending" something, that "it will haunt the mind for many a day afterwards," it would really seem as if he coveted a similar fate for his readers. It is but small consolation to learn that this master-mind feels at the time of writing as if he had been "under a wizard's spell," for the obvious question is, when is he likely to be well again, and how soon will his utterances be uninfluenced by legerdemain? But, in truth, we are not greatly alarmed for the condition of this too sensitive reviewer. On reading his pæan of praise a second time, it seems to be rather the wail of a spirit called in to bless where it would prefer to bestow its malison, than the outspoken convictions of one enchanted, to use his own language, by "a strange mixture of phantasies like truth, and truths like phantasy."

All the extracts given are from reviews which appeared in *The Times* from the 14th to the 19th of April inclusive—the article on "Farm Homesteads" excepted, which appeared twice—and they are selected, not because they are unusually fervent, but for the reason that they appear to us

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fair samples of the sort of criticism in vogue. A dead level of approval, uniform as an assembly of quakers, and vapid as *eau sucrée*, has, alas! been substituted for the sparkling, thoughtful essay which formerly so effectually ridiculed incompetence and exposed imposture.

CURRENT LITERATURE.

HISTORY OF JULIUS CAESAR.

[Third Notice.]*

Histoire de Jules César. Vol. I. (Paris: Plon. London: Cassell, Petter, & Galpin.)

THE author begins his third chapter with a short sketch of the Consul, M. Tullius Cicero, who was what the Romans termed a "new man." The author explains and misexplains this term. He says, "They called new men those who amongst their ancestors counted none that had held a high magistracy." Every common fellow at Rome would be a "new man" according to this definition. But a "new man," in the Roman sense, was the first of his family who rose to a curule office, and so became the founder of his own nobility.

In the consulship of Cicero (B.C. 63), the tribune P. Servilius Rullus proposed an Agrarian law, the professed purpose of which was to relieve Rome of her turbulent populace, by buying lands in Italy and settling the poor citizens on them. The bill proposed the appointment of ten commissioners, with enormous powers. The necessary money was to be raised by the sale of the ancient domains of the Kings of Macedonia and Pergamum, and generally by selling all the land that belonged to the Roman State out of Italy. The public property in Sicily was also to be sold, and the public land in Italy, such as the territory of Capua. The bill gave the commissioners power to call on the generals for all the booty and the money taken in war, which had not been brought into the Roman treasury; and it gave the commissioners authority for five years to sell, alienate, impose charges, let to farm, and also to determine what lands belonged to the State, and what to individuals. We only know what this bill was by Cicero's three orations against it. The author says that if Cicero could have raised himself above party questions, he would, like Caesar, have supported the tribune's bill. It is difficult for us to judge of such a measure, but we see exorbitant powers given to ten commissioners, who might abuse them; and the design to relieve Rome of her poor and turbulent citizens, by planting them on lands given or purchased by the State, was not a measure calculated to cure the disorders of the times. It was, however, a popular measure. Caesar supported it, Cicero spoke against it, and the bill was rejected.

In B.C. 100 the tribune L. Appuleius Saturninus lost his life in a civil broil. He was, perhaps, aiming at a revolution; certainly he was disturbing the peace of Rome. The Senate wisely and promptly armed the consuls with authority to suppress the riots. Now, after the lapse of six-and-thirty years, an aged senator, C. Rabirius, was prosecuted on the charge of being the man who killed Saturninus. It was certain that Rabirius was one of those who acted under the authority of the Senate; but if the circumstances of Saturninus' death are truly told, it was impossible to say who killed him, and equally absurd to inquire by whose hand he fell, for the Senate gave the order to suppress the disturbance by force of arms, and by virtue of a power which had long been exercised. T. Labienus was the prosecutor of Rabirius. Caesar, it is said, instigated the prosecution; and himself and his kinsman, L. Caesar, were irregularly appointed to form a court for the trial of Rabirius. The two Caesars condemned Rabirius, and he appealed to the popular assembly. He would have been condemned there too, if Metellus Celer, an augur and praetor, had

not prevented it by a trick. In old times it was the fashion to hoist a flag on the Janiculus when the people were assembled in the Comitia Centuriata, and to leave a body of men under arms at the flag, to keep a lookout, for Rome in those days was always in danger of attack. The flag was guarded so long as the people were assembled, but when the meeting was over, the flag was struck. The old custom was maintained when the reason for it had ceased, and it continued to be a rule that no business could be done in the Comitia Centuriata if the flag was down. While the appeal was going on, Metellus struck the flag, the assembly was dissolved, and Rabirius was saved, though Labienus might have renewed the prosecution if he chose. The object of this prosecution was to weaken the power of the Senate and please the populace. The author says that Caesar engaged Labienus "to get up a criminal accusation, which was a direct attack upon the abuse of one of the prerogatives of the Government." It was not a direct attack upon an abuse of power, but an indirect attack on a proper use of prerogative.

In B.C. 63 the office of Pontifex Maximus was vacant, and Caesar was a candidate. The Pontifex Maximus was the head of religion at Rome, and the office was for life. Sulla had deprived the people of the power of electing the Pontifex Maximus, but Caesar's friend, Labienus, proposed and carried a law which restored the election to the people, yet so that only seventeen of the thirty-five tribes voted. Q. Lutatius Catulus and Q. Servilius Isauricus, who had commanded against the pirates, were also candidates. Caesar was elected; a striking proof, says the author, of his popularity; but he had to pay dear for his new honour. He spent large sums on his election, and, if he had not succeeded, his debts, we are told, would have compelled him to leave Rome. His election gave him an official residence, but we cannot understand how it improved his circumstances, for we are not informed that he had a salary. Indeed, he must have been worse off, if it is true, as the author tells us, that "this new position necessarily obliged him to a sumptuous life." But as if this new expense was not enough, "he built himself a superb villa on the lake of Nemi, near Aricia." Now, a man who was overwhelmed with debt could hardly undertake to build a "superb villa," unless he borrowed money on the expectation of his "exalted future," which the author has already spoken of; and this prospect would not be a very satisfactory security to the lender. It is unfortunate when an advocate does not fully understand his client's case. He makes things worse than they are. Caesar began to build after he had filled his pockets in Gallia; for Cicero speaks of him employing his money on this villa in a letter to Atticus, written in B.C. 50. He also informs us in this letter that Atticus, who was one of Caesar's creditors, had then just contrived by dunning to get fifty talents out of him; and he supposes that this payment will rather check Caesar's building scheme. Shortly after the Pontifical election, Caesar was chosen a praetor for the next year B.C. 62.

The second conspiracy of Catilina was the great event of the year B.C. 63. The Government was weak; there were few soldiers in Italy, and one of the consuls, C. Antonius, is said, though it may not be true, to have been associated with Catilina and the other conspirators. It is not easy to see what the design of these men really was; but Catilina had twice failed in the consulship, he and his party were deeply in debt, and they wished to seize the power, probably without having any other definite object. The author tells the story with tolerable accuracy. The Senate, under the guidance of Cicero, proceeded in an irregular way against those conspirators who had been seized, for the proposal was to put them to death without trial. Caesar spoke against this measure; he proposed to confiscate the men's property, and to imprison them for life. But this would have been quite as irregular as putting them to death without trial, for the Senate had no power to

condemn Roman citizens. They ought to have been tried in the same way that Rabirius was tried, and then they would have had an appeal to the people. But in the present state of the Commonwealth an irregular proceeding was justifiable, if it can be justified, because it was the shortest and easiest way of getting rid of the conspirators.

Caesar's speech is in Sallust, but we cannot tell whether the historian has given the words, or only the substance. It is a sensible, plain address. The author has translated it, and very fairly. The translator has translated the French, and with the usual amount of blunders. The author's remarks on Caesar's speech and Cicero's pompous declamation in his orations against Catilina are just and sensible. He says that "Cicero's is not the cool and impartial language which becomes a judge." But Cicero was resolved to get rid of the men who were disturbing the State. He was moved both by passion and by fear. Caesar spoke without passion, and he was not a man to be easily frightened. There was, however, talk about his being an accomplice of Catilina, but no evidence was alleged, and a man of his abilities, who filled high places, was not likely to league himself with a set of men who seem to have had very little common sense. The author says, "However ambitious a man may be, he does not conspire when he can attain his end by lawful means." His judgment of the conspirators is more favourable than the common opinion, and he has something to say in their defence which is worth reading. He admits that Catilina was guilty of an attempt to overthrow the Constitution, but he was only imitating Marius and Sulla. "His dreams were of a revolutionary despotism, of the ruin of the aristocratical party; yet would his success have been a misfortune: a permanent good can never be the production of hands that are not clean." This is well worth the consideration of those who would effect revolutions by violent means; but we should hardly have expected the author to make so frank a confession. He has, however, something to say for himself, for he explains in what cases "legality may be legitimately violated"—(p. 338, Fr. ed.)—a curious combination of words and confusion of ideas, which the translator has very imperfectly expressed by "Laws may be justly broken when," &c. Caesar was now a praetor, B.C. 62. In this year Pompeius returned victorious from the Mithridatic war, and Caesar renewed his attentions to the great man. The author has represented Caesar as a great political intriguer, and he now introduces us to his private intrigues. He was not content with having gained the goodwill of the people: he won "the favour of the noblest dames of Rome." But the author discovers "a political aim in his choice of mistresses, since all held by different ties to men who were then playing, or were destined to play, an important part." This is sufficiently amusing. What follows is written with a charming simplicity: "He had intimate relations with Tertulla, the wife of Crassus; with Mucia, the wife of Pompey; with Lollia, wife of Aulus Gabinius, who was consul in 696; with Postumia, wife of Servius Sulpicius, who was raised to the consulship in 703, and persuaded to join Caesar's party by her influence; but the woman he preferred was Servilia, sister of Cato, and mother of Brutus, to whom during his first consulship he gave a pearl valued at six millions of sesterii, or 45,600*l.* This connexion throws an air of improbability over the reports in circulation, that Servilia favoured an intrigue between him and her daughter Tertulla. Was it by the intermediation of Tertulla that Crassus was reconciled with Caesar," &c. The last is an acute conjecture. Did the adulterous wife reconcile the adulterer and her husband? In truth, Caesar must have been a busy man, if he had all this work on hand at once; but perhaps the author has only followed Suetonius here, and somewhat neglected chronological order. Caesar paid this attention to Mucia, while her husband was fighting against Mithridates. Pompeius

* For preceding notices, see THE READER for April 1st p. 302, and April 29, p. 476.

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was not particularly pleased with the affair, and on his return he put away his wife; but as the author afterwards remarks, "resentment on this account, usually slight enough among the Romans, soon disappeared before the exigencies of political life." Caesar afterwards gave his daughter Julia to his injured friend.

Near the close of Caesar's praetorship his wife and other Roman ladies were celebrating, by night, certain mysterious ceremonies in Caesar's house, when a young rascal, named P. Clodius, disguised as a woman, contrived to get admission. His purpose was an intrigue with Caesar's wife Pompeia, whom, as the story goes, he could not easily visit, on account of the vigilance of Caesar's mother, Aurelia. The fellow was detected by a female slave, and expelled from the house. Great was the scandal, for the intrusion of Clodius was a violation of a sacred ceremonial. Caesar divorced his wife, the granddaughter of Sulla, "a beautiful and graceful woman," as the author has described her by the strength of his imagination, "without condescending to inquire whether she was guilty or not." When Caesar was "asked to explain his own conduct, he replied with equal regard to his honour and his interest, 'The wife of Caesar must be above suspicion.'" This way of writing history is almost ludicrous, but the author appears to be serious, and perfectly unconscious that he is making his hero ridiculous. Clodius was tried for intruding on the sacred mysteries, and acquitted, as Cicero says, by a bribed jury, whom the author and his translator convert into "judges."

After describing the magnificent triumph of Pompeius for his Eastern victories, the author closes his third chapter with a short discourse on "destiny which regulates events." In a previous number of *THE READER* some remarks were made on this matter. The author in his preface speaks of men who have a "providential mission." His remarks do not assist us in determining the relation between Providence and Destiny, nor does he plainly tell us how he conceives the relation of these two powers. Instead of presenting to us a clear sequence of the phenomena of history, which is the business of an historian, we are treated with such reflections as the following: "Nothing then arrested the march of events; the party of resistance hurried them forward more rapidly than any other. It was evident that they progressed towards a revolution; and a revolution is like a river, which overflows and inundates. Caesar aimed at digging a bed for it," &c., &c. Does this style of writing instruct—does it even amuse? It is easy to answer the first part of the question. At least, every sensible man will say, No. Perhaps it does amuse some people who never think: it fills the ears, and leaves the mind as vacant as it was before. Both writers and readers are often intolerant of the labour of reaching truth. The facts that we know are few enough, and these few must be perverted, bedizened, and bespattered, before the idle multitude care to know them.

In 693 Caesar went to his government of Spain. His creditors, it is said, tried to hinder his departure, but how they went about it, we do not know. There was no writ of *ne exeat* in those days. However, he applied to Crassus to help him with his credit. Perhaps Tertulla was useful here, and prevailed on her rich husband to assist her lover. Caesar went off to Spain in a hurry, but only, we are told, because he was so eager to help the Roman allies against the mountaineers of Lusitania. The author has made use of some Portuguese authorities, not generally known, for explaining a passage in Dion Cassius, in which he describes the flight of the Lusitani to an island, which seems to be identified with the present peninsula named Peniche de Cima. It is here that Dion speaks of the wondrous exploit of P. Scaevius, which is so like the story in Valerius Maximus about Scaeva's exploit during Caesar's invasion of Britain, that we conclude it is the same adventure with vari-

ations. After defeating the enemy, Caesar applied himself to matters of civil administration, and we can easily believe that he improved the affairs of the country. He settled disputes between debtors and creditors by fixing reasonable terms of liquidation. Perhaps his own experience pointed out to him the best way of compounding with creditors. The author says that he got rich booty in the campaign, "which enabled him to reward his soldiers and to pay considerable sums into the treasury, without being accused of peculation or of arbitrary acts. His conduct as Proprætor of Spain was praised by all, and among others by Mark Antony, in a speech pronounced after Caesar's death." M. Antonius called as a witness to Caesar's character is one of the amusing instances of the author's great simplicity and readiness to believe all that he reads; and a speech manufactured by Dion in his usual way, which is well known to those who have read him, is quoted with childlike credulity as a piece of historical evidence. The author affirms that Caesar amassed such great riches "by contributions of war, by a good administration, and even by the gratitude of those whom he had governed." Fine talk, indeed. No soldier ever got wealth out of the Spanish peninsula, except by plunder.

On his return to Rome Caesar was ready to be a candidate for the consulship, and he was elected in B.C. 60, after having prepared the way to it "by making Pompey, Crassus, and Cicero share his ideas." The author informs us how "the condition of the Republic must have appeared to Caesar's comprehensive grasp of thought" (p. 436 Tr.) But this strange passage is too long to quote.

There remains Caesar's consulship to discuss, but enough has been done to show the character of the work and of the Messiah (Preface, p. xv.) who was sent to the Romans. The reader has probably had enough of this volume. The reviewer certainly has. We will hope that the subsequent volumes will make amends for the faults of this, by giving us a better view of Caesar's campaigns than we have yet had. We may reasonably expect this from the means which the author has at his command, and from his knowledge of the art of war.

G. L.

(Concluded.)

CATCHPENNY LITERATURE.

The Holy Land. By William Hepworth Dixon. (Chapman and Hall.)

THE London Arabs are wise in their generation. They know the times and the seasons. In the spring they sell cresses, and in the summer, cabbages; autumn brings them apples, and winter oranges; and, at the worst, they can always rely upon cat's-meat. The London Bohemian, too, understands the publishing seasons. He knows the times of books, when novels are ripe, when voyages are wholesome, and when poetry disagrees. Letters are his profession, but Catchpenny is his name. He, in fact, grows books for Mudie's, where samples may always be obtained. Chief among our great book-growers stand Mr. Sala, Mr. Thornbury, and Sir Lascelles Wrixall. Their firms, if we may so speak, will supply the literary markets with anything. They will grow travels or philosophy, though we understand they cannot raise the last to much profit; verse or prose, fiction—early spring varieties, or late autumn, very juicy—or history, or, more generally in the latter case, an interesting but very puzzling hybrid. A book on travels, it is understood, may be grown in a week; but a brand-new work on philosophy cannot be forced much under a month. Novels, however, are indigenous, and require no growing or care of any kind.

To these firms must now be added the eminent name of Mr. William Hepworth Dixon. When, a few years ago, the labours of Spedding had mooted certain new questions about the character of Bacon, Mr. Dixon instantly grew "The Personal History of Lord Bacon," followed by a kind of

second crop, "The Story of Lord Bacon's Life." And now, when the researches of Stanley and Tristram have excited an interest in Palestine, he is in the book-market with his "Holy Land." And, just as he formerly befriended Bacon, so now he patronizes his Saviour.

To write such a work as Mr. Dixon has attempted, several qualifications are necessary. He who would bring back wealth from the East, says the proverb, must himself carry out wealth. Mr. Dixon's stock is of the scantiest; of scientific knowledge he possesses absolutely none. The botanist who, in spite of the *Cybele Britannica*, could tell us in "The Story of Lord Bacon's Life" that the whole flora of the south of England could be found at Twickenham, is hardly likely to do justice to the flora of a country to which he only pays a flying visit. Of ornithology Mr. Dixon is equally ignorant, though, from his own account, he detected in Lord Bacon's portrait by Hilliard, when the former was only eighteen, "a thought for the bird on the tree, the fragrance in the air, and the insect on the stream." We should be glad, indeed, to know by what outward signs young ornithologists and entomologists can be distinguished? As far as our knowledge and observation go, the faces of the many distinguished members of the Zoological Society do not exhibit any marked peculiarities. Of geology, too, Mr. Dixon is equally ignorant. His researches are apparently confined to only picking up pebbles by a river's side (vol. 1, pp. 294, 298)—a very favourite geological study with small boys. He, however, tells us (vol. 1, p. 139) that every stone in Bethlehem seems to whisper about David. Of sermons in stones we have heard, but to find them seemingly whispering is a geological phenomenon for which we were not prepared.

Of nearly equal importance to science on such a subject, is a knowledge of Biblical criticism. Throughout these volumes we can find no reference to the labours of later German critics. The miracles are talked about as if Strauss had never written. The date of St. Matthew's Gospel (vol. 2, p. 102) is as confidently assigned as if Mr. Dixon had received some private revelation on the subject; whilst the author of the Fourth Gospel is spoken of as contemporary with the first miracle (vol. 1, p. 333). Mr. Dixon may now think these matters of small account, and that they can be glossed over by telling us how, in London, his dreams were blessed by visions of Joshua fording the Jordan and John baptizing his disciples in its waters, and Jesus walking along its banks (vol. 1, p. 294), or by such a pious alliteration as—"Higher than the rest of these heights soars Hermon—holy, beautiful Hermon" (vol. 1, p. 175); but some day, probably, when the public at Mudie's call, Mr. Hepworth Dixon will be ready to take a subjective view of the Gospel narratives, and to place them on the same shelf with that pleasing volume of fiction, "The Story of Lord Bacon's Life."

Since neither science nor biblical criticism, except of the guide-post kind, are to be found in the book, we are obliged to fall back upon the style. Of its sort, it is certainly good. But the first principles of catchpenny literature ought to be explained before we descend to such minor details. Catchpenny literature is now an institution, and obeys its own laws; these are, however, very simple, and can be reduced to two great axioms. The first may be briefly defined thus: whenever you hear that a well-known author is going to publish a work, on which he has spent the greater portion of his life, you will instantly rush off to the British Museum and State Paper Office, string a few authorities together—authorities look well in a note, and give a Gibbon-like air to a book—plagiarise all the new views which the real author has incautiously circulated in society, and then burst before the world with a taking title. You thus forestall your rival, and gain the credit of being an original thinker. Afterwards, if you like, you can accuse him

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of stealing from you. The second great fundamental Catchpenny rule is to take care that your book shall be well reviewed by your friends before it is published. This, however, must be done with discretion; injudicious praise will sometimes ruin even a catchpenny book. For instance, your friends, whilst admiring your learning, your candour, your moderation, your depth of thought, and especially your piety, must every now and then confess that they can't quite agree with your views. This will make the world think that you really have some views, a fact which it could not have learnt by any extracts.

The details of the Catchpenny style are, of course, much more numerous than its fundamental principles. They may, however, all be found in perfection in the writings of Mr. Sala, Mr. Thornbury, and the present author. Any one wishing to acquire this style is advised to master the following rules: The great end and aim of all Catchpenny writing is to obtain effect with the smallest possible amount of thought. One of the easiest methods is to reverse the general usage of words. Thus you will speak of booths "being tiled with boughs and leaves" (vol. 1, p. 17), and of "jars and vases spun in the Potter's Field" (vol. 2, p. 3). In this way you gain a considerable amount of originality of speech, especially if you are able soon afterwards to say that calicoes are moulded. Your images can be formed on the same principle. Thus you will say, "a chime goes booming in silvery thunder" (vol. 1, p. 282); and, when the opportunity occurs, you will of course say, "the thunder goes booming in silvery chimes." Nothing can be so cheap as this. You get two similes at the same expense as one. So, too, you will say, "the starry hosts are frosted into fire" (vol. 1, p. 148). Nothing, at first sight, seems so unlikely an operation; but herein lies its originality. There is the air of a miracle about it.

Do not be afraid, in using similes, to borrow from modern trades and avocations; they give a colour and a tone to your writing. The tailor's shears will suggest to you how a leech may "be snipt off" from a horse's mouth (vol. 1, p. 38); and the dairy give you visions of "creamy sands" (vol. 1, pp. 14, 40); and the kitchen, of "the Dead Sea simmering" (vol. 1, 258). Vividness is easily attainable, though sometimes at the expense of sense, by such a phrase as, "how my hunting whip yearns to descend on the shoulders of that laughing and careless Nubian slave" (vol. 1, 39). But, should you wish to dispense entirely with the labour of thought, the best plan is to adopt the Sala trick, so called from its greatest master, and rely simply upon a string of words. Thus you will say, "Reader, chazzan, batlan, meturgeman, all the members of the Nazarene congregation, gazed round the room" (vol. 2, p. 154). To a simple English reader the effect is striking, though bewildering. As for philosophy, a little goes a long way in Catchpenny literature. The easiest method is simply to contradict all well-ascertained facts. Thus you will say of travelling, "all modes of travel, like all forms of warfare, harden and sear the heart" (vol. 1, p. 59). Hitherto travelling has been supposed to enlighten men's minds, and to enlarge their views. But, according to Catchpenny, Shakspeare's picture of the home-keeping youth, with his provincial manners, is a blunder. Goethe talked nonsense when he said the world was made spacious that men might be able to travel. Claudian's old man of Verona is Catchpenny's ideal. In this way you start a theory, and there is no theory so absurd upon which you may not found a school. It is as well, however, to give your philosophical reflections a dash of Greek. That you do not know the language forms no valid objection, for your printer will set up the characters and look after the accents; besides, you can always blame him if anything goes wrong. As far as we have observed in these volumes, Mr. Hepworth Dixon puts us off with only a little shabby Hellenistic Greek; but that is better

than none, and in the eyes of ladies looks quite as fine as the real article. As for humour and wit, the slang of the day will supply you with plenty. Thus you will talk in school-boy's language of "tipping" a servant (vol. 1, p. 5); about "the day being still young" (vol. 1, p. 9); and you will ask, in maid-of-all-work language, "What call has an Oriental to mend his road?" (vol. 1, p. 48). Such phrases give a light airy grace to your style, and show that you are not above using the expressions of your humbler fellow-creatures.

So far, we have laughed at the book; but there are some things at which we cannot laugh. It is a most deplorable thing, both for the interests of religion and literature, to find a man in Mr. Hepworth Dixon's position writing such a work. For the interests of religion, it is lamentable to treat the Holy Land as if it were a vulgar peep-show; to write about it in the style of some fast, showy guide-book; to flippantly speak of the disciples of Jesus going to some "orthodox baker" (vol. 2, p. 74); and to talk of Joseph's Well as an "attractive spot" (vol. 2, p. 73), as if it were some cockney Knaresborough. But the worst feature is, that the writer betrays an utter absence of both thought and interest about all those great questions upon which the historical truth of Christianity stands or falls, and which the best and sincerest minds of the age are trying to solve. In his jaunty way, Mr. Hepworth Dixon talks of the plenary inspiration of the New Testament as an undoubted fact (vol. 2, p. 270), and slurs over all important points with an indifference which shows the shallowness of his mind, or settles them with a boldness which can only be the result of ignorance. It is true that in his preface Mr. Hepworth Dixon says that he does not profess to treat such questions; but here lies the point at issue. These questions are those which knock loudest at our hearts, and demand an answer. No one cares a straw about where Mr. Hepworth Dixon slept, or bathed, or what he ate, and drank, and smoked. But they do care for the solution of these great difficulties, and require argument instead of assumption, and criticism instead of fine writing. In short, the Holy Land must either be treated in a scholarly and reverential tone, or not at all. Mr. Hepworth Dixon's position is such, that we might have expected the former method; he has, however, chosen the well-known Catchpenny style, and against it we have felt bound to make a protest. For the interests of literature, the book is equally deplorable. In literature Mr. Hepworth Dixon is well known to occupy a most important position. He is the editor of a literary journal; and young writers, with a double view of both obtaining favour and cultivating the graces of style, will naturally turn to him as their model. They will be tempted to imitate a rhetoric which is not painting, but coarse daubing, which, aiming to be picturesque, is only theatrical, and which, when striving to be graceful, is simply meretricious. It seems a hard saying, but it is the truth—Mr. Dixon once wrote the most foolish of books upon the greatest of men, and has now written the vulgarest upon the most sacred of subjects.

"UNHAPPY IRELAND."

Irish Almanac and Official Directory. (Alex. Thom, Dublin.)

THE moist and unruly Celtic island, which lies some sixty miles westwards from England, and has given her so much trouble for a good many centuries back, is still not very well known to the greater number of English people.

That Ireland is poor, dirty, discontented, dangerous, clever, comical, combative, talkative, speaks with a brogue, is chiefly Papist, has some good scenery, large bogs, and fine fishing rivers, many antiquities, a famous but very foggy ancient history, and current politics always of a most puzzling nature—that nobody seems to know what to do with her, and that, as a matter of personal taste,

and speaking in a general way, "No Irish need apply"—this is perhaps no unfair summary of the average English notions in regard to the Sister Kingdom.

Mr. Thom's book for 1865 contains, in nearly 1,865 pages, a huge mass of information upon matters Irish, seems to be done accurately on the whole, and is incomparably the best single book of reference on its subject.

Irish statistics, shown in Thom up to the latest possible date, have many points of interest. Is the country beginning to rise, on the whole, or yearly and monthly sinking lower and lower? a question warmly and persistently debated at present, is one to which we are not prepared with an answer. We cull, in judicial manner, certain interesting facts from the bulky elaborate tables herein given from official sources; and, for clearness' sake, we use round numbers. The population of Ireland, which in 1841 exceeded 8,000,000, was in '51 5,750,000—200,000 less than in 1811. Since 1811, England has about doubled her population, and Scotland risen from 1,750,000 to 3,000,000. From '51 to '61, population decreased in every county, save one, namely Dublin, and in every city and town, save two, Belfast and Carrickfergus. Limerick fell from 53,000 to 44,000, Galway from 24,000 to 17,000, Kilkenny from 20,000 to 14,000. To the famine and diseases consequent on the potato-failure of 1845-8, it is usual to attribute this great reduction, but it was chiefly caused by emigration, migration to Great Britain, and diminution of births, not much of it by deaths from extraordinary causes. These from '41 to '51 were by the official returns about 400,000 from fever, dysentery and diarrhoea, and cholera, and about 20,000 from "starvation"—a small item when compared with rhetorical statements on the subject, but in itself large enough and sad enough. In this decennial period, about 1,200,000 persons emigrated from Ireland, and since then the emigration has proceeded at the rate of about 100,000 each year; in 1864 it amounted to 130,000, of whom about 105,000 went to the United States. But we must eschew figures and submit a few other facts in less particular form. The number of paupers relieved under the Poor-law has largely increased in the last four years; the land under tillage has decreased; on the other hand the cultivation of flax shows a great increase in every part of the island, and the reclamation of waste lands is advancing, with the aid of considerable loans from Government. The acreage under grass is increased, the number of small holdings and of poor cabins very greatly diminished.

Under "The Encumbered Estates Court," 1849-59, the sales have amounted to over 25,000,000*l.* sterling, and under its successor, "The Landed Estates Court," to 7,000,000*l.*, some 3,000,000*l.* worth being now in the market.

Ireland has a special standing army of riflemen, over 12,000 strong, named "Constabulary" (*vulgo*, "Peelers"), which, with 72 stipendiary magistrates, cost close upon three-quarters of a million per annum.

And now a word or two on Irish Church statistics. Members of the Established Church number, say, 690,000; Presbyterians, 520,000; Dissenters, 76,000; total of Protestants, say, a million and a-quarter; Roman Catholics, four and a-half millions. The Established Church has 2 archbishops, 10 bishops, 2,200 clergy; "net annual income," including money through the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, some 700,000*l.* per annum. The Presbyterians (but certain of them refuse to share in it) receive from Government a *Regium Donum* of 40,000*l.* a-year, giving some 70*l.* to each minister. This originated in a small gift of Charles II. out of the Secret Service money. The Methodists, Baptists, and Independents support themselves. The Catholics have 4 archbishops, 24 bishops (all appointed by the Pope), about 3,000 priests, and numerous monks, friars, and nuns. Parliament gives a yearly grant to Maynooth College, for the education of priests. This

sum excepted, the vast clerical organization is supported by fees on marriages, baptisms, and funerals, by Christmas and Easter dues, and by voluntary contributions in money or labour. Churches, convents, &c., are built by subscriptions, legacies, and collections. Wonderful exertions in this way have been made in the last twenty years, and have given birth to conspicuous and showy Roman Catholic edifices in every part of Ireland, but much of the money has been contributed from other countries.

From the earliest traditional times down to this moment, Ireland has been continually in a state of quarrel. Iceland has her physical, and Ireland her moral *geysers*, so to speak, flinging up with short, irregular intervals torrents of *hot water*—the Hibernian hot water not confined within the borders of a volcanic basin, but overflowing the land. The volcanic rumblings and grumblings are still going on, partly inarticulate, a general murmur of discontent, partly articulate in cries of "Down with the Established Church!" "Down with the National Schools!" "Hurrah for Tenant Right!" with hoarser, less frequent growls, "Parliament in College Green!" "Independence?" "A Nation once again!" &c., &c. But our affair at present is with statistics, and we turn to those of the National School System, started in 1833, and since then victoriously progressive, in spite of much and bitter clerical opposition. The leading principle is that the schools are open to all children whatsoever, that no pupil shall be required to attend at any religious exercise, or to receive any religious instruction which his parents or guardians do not approve; and that sufficient opportunity (in school hours) shall be afforded to the pupils of each religious persuasion to receive separately, at appointed times, such religious instruction as their parents or guardians think proper.

In spite of a diminishing population, the pupils in these Irish National Schools have steadily increased, year by year. Number on the rolls on the last day of 1863, 840,000; average daily attendance, say, 300,000; Parliamentary grant, 346,000*l.*; the Catholic pupils being over 81 per cent. of the total, the Presbyterian over 11 per cent., the Established Church nearly 6½ per cent. The proportionate number of those in Ireland who can read and write shows a large and rapid increase in the last twenty years, probably beyond that of any other country.

The Dublin Exhibition, which opens this month, will draw many visitors to Ireland. Few strangers, we believe, visit that country without carrying away, along with some melancholy impressions, a pleasing memory of the quickness, good-humour, and gentle manners of her people. Poor Paddy, with all his faults and mistakes, is one of the kindest and most improvable of human beings. But his training and history differ widely from those of his English brother:—
Island of bitter memories, thickly sown,
From winding Boyne to Limerick's treaty-stone,
Bare Connaught Hills to Dublin Castle wall,
Green Wexford to the glens of Donegal,
Through sad six hundred years of hostile sway,
From Strongbow fierce to cunning Castlereagh!
These will not melt and vanish in a day.

The sway of England is no longer hostile. Let her continue it with a firm, gentle, and liberal hand; giving not only *justice*, but far more than mere justice to Ireland, for she owes her much amends. May the present Viceroy have a mild and prosperous reign, in spite of all rumours of "Fenianism," and in spite of his own crest and motto, ominously reminding us of the departed glories of Donnybrook Fair, a cudgel or shillelagh, rampant, with the inscription "Frappe Fort!"

A CAMPAIGNER AT HOME.

A Campaigner at Home. By Shirley. (Longmans.)

IN the preface to this volume we read, "Jim, do you ever think?" "As little as possible, Sir." The author adds, "There was commonsense and philosophic

insight in the reply. If he once began to think, there is no saying where he might stop." The same thing might be said of magazine readers; if they began to think, they might cease to read magazines.

Shirley is one of the few regular contributors to magazines whose jokes never weary us, and whose papers are always welcome. He differs from another constant contributor to *Fraser* in this, that while Shirley writes because he has some ideas to communicate, "A. K. H. B." writes because he has a certain command of words, and the knack of stringing empty sentences together. Like a second Castlereagh, he can "spout away

In one weak, washy, everlasting flood."

This book contains a number of essays linked together by a slight story. With essays, the public has recently been surfeited. Sidney Smith's taunt, that every man thinks he can drive a gig and write a leading article, is no longer applicable. Gigs are disappearing. Leading articles, judging from those which fill the columns of our daily contemporaries, are produced by machinery. Men, women, and children, both young and old, now devote themselves to essay writing. Probably it is because so many are published that so few are readable. Essay writers merely follow the fashion. They write because it pays. Some of them make that form of writing so much a commercial affair, as to contrive to get their papers published simultaneously in England and America. In this way the copyright is secured in both countries. Moreover, the same paper is paid for twice over. No one has displayed so much ability in this matter as the "Country Parson." Perhaps, no other author would have dreamt of making essay-writing a purely tradesmanlike transaction.

It is almost impossible to criticise in other than general terms a volume of detached essays. The subjects treated of by Shirley are numerous; and in each case the treatment is appropriate. He is a man who reflects before he writes. He gives us choice thoughts as well as apt words. He charms us, moreover, by means of a style at once fresh, flexible, and forcible.

The most striking paper is entitled, "How We Took Down the Sun." Theological rancour and intolerance are the vices condemned by the essayist. We cannot more appropriately recommend a very readable and instructive volume than by quoting, as a sample of its quality, the following sketch of the "position, moral, social, and ecclesiastical, of the Thug":—

The British, like the Indian, Thug, holds that in religion, as in war, any stratagem is justifiable. He strangles his adversaries whenever he gets the chance. Being 'on the Lord's side,' he is entitled to use weapons which could not be decently used in a secular contest. He scatters foul epithets, and attributes base motives, in a lofty spirit of Christian forbearance. The world may 'occasionally denounce the calumniator,' but he is prepared to suffer in his Master's cause; and meekly bowing his head, he repeats with variations the original offence. In the old times it happened once that these men rose up in force, and took possession of the government, for the purpose of carrying into practice their own religious ideas. They were to hold no truce with the powers of evil. Whatever did not agree with their theological system was accursed, and was to be treated after the fashion in which the Israelites treated the Canaanites.

North of the Border, the Covenanters, south of the Border, the Puritans, represented the chosen people. . . . The nineteenth century Thug, though but a sorry representative of the men who won Cromwell's battles, continues to occupy substantially the same ground. He sees the same distinct line of demarcation between the people of God and the people of the devil.

He belongs to the elect; he has been rescued from the eternal wrath which awaits a guilty world. The men of that world he cannot now shoot down, or burn, or imprison, or torture; but he can separate himself from them, he can speak evil things of all who wander across the line, of all who venture to speak charity and brotherly kindness, of all who enjoy the world which God has made, or who employ the faculties with which He has endowed them. Malice, hatred, uncharitableness, the petty

animosities of ignoble minds, are ugly things; but though the Fifth Monarchy man was a much more heroic figure, 'I am not sorry,' quoth the Doctor, 'that the zeal of the chosen people is now forced to spend itself in religious newspapers and May meetings.'

HEAT AS A MODE OF MOTION.

Heat Considered as a Mode of Motion. By John Tyndall, F.R.S., &c. Second Edition.

TWO years ago we gave our readers an outline of the contents of this remarkable work by Professor Tyndall; and in the interval which has since elapsed the author and others have been actively continuing their researches into some of the more recondite phenomena of heat.

The first edition of the work appeared merely as a reprint of a course of lectures delivered at the Royal Institution, and was broken up into lectures. In the new edition the same arrangement of subjects is still preserved, but the use of the term lecture as a heading has been abandoned, and the work is now divided into thirteen chapters. The principal new matter is included in the twelfth of these chapters, and the appendix to it.

This twelfth chapter is chiefly devoted to an account of Professor Tyndall's own experiments upon the permeability to radiant heat of volatile liquids and their vapours. The liquids under experiment were placed in a cell with sides of polished rock-salt, and through the stratum of liquid included between these plates of rock-salt the rays of heat were caused to pass. In these, as in all his experiments, the author has employed as his means of measuring heat the thermomultiplier, first adapted to these inquiries by Melloni. The heat rays, after traversing the medium under experiment, are allowed to fall upon the exposed face of the thermomultiplier; this instrument is connected with a galvanometer of great delicacy, and the deviations of the magnetic needle are employed to measure the heat transmitted. The skill with which the various sources of error are eliminated, and the ingenious series of checks upon the accuracy of the results, must elicit the admiration of all who have any practical acquaintance with the difficulty of such inquiries. Indeed, the whole of the researches of Professor Tyndall upon radiant heat, the details of which are contained in his papers in the "Philosophical Transactions," may be cited as models of the method in which such investigations should be conducted. Higher praise cannot be given them than to say they constitute a worthy sequel to the papers of Melloni on the subject.

A similar series of experiments was afterwards made upon the vapours of these same liquids. For this purpose the vapours were introduced into a brass tube about four feet long, polished in the interior and closed air-tight, with plates of polished rock-salt. The air was exhausted from the tube, and a quantity of each vapour of known elastic force was successively introduced into the tube, and then an equal amount of heat from the same source was allowed to fall upon the plate of rock-salt which closed the front of the tube: the rays of heat after traversing the tube and its contents fell upon the thermo-multiplier, as in the preceding series. In this way, when due precautions were taken, it was shown that the absorbent power of the different vapours for radiant heat follows the same order as that observed in the case of the liquids which furnished them; that, for example, whether the bodies be examined as vapour or as liquid, they were found to become progressively more opaque to radiant heat in the order in which they follow—viz.: bisulphide of carbon, chloroform, iodide of methyl, iodide of ethyl, benzol, amylene, ether, acetic ether, formic ether, alcohol, and water; bisulphide of carbon being the most permeable, and water the least so, to the rays of heat which fall upon them.

It was long since proved by the early experiments upon radiant heat, and particularly

by those of Bérard and Melloni, that heat from a source of low intensity, such as that of a blackened kettle filled with boiling water, will not pass through a plate of transparent glass with the same facility as the heat from a source of high intensity, such as red-hot wire or a flame, and that, in fact, there are differences in the *quality* of radiant heat analogous to the differences in colour in the rays of light. According to the views adopted by most modern physicalists the sole difference between the rays of light and those of heat, apart from their effects upon our sensations, is one of the frequency of the vibrations of the ether by means of which each is supposed to be propagated. To use the words of our author:—

If the heat of two beams be transmitted by the selfsame substance in different proportions, the two beams are said to be of different qualities. Strictly speaking, this question of quality is one of period; and if the heat of one source be more or less copiously transmitted than the heat of another source, it is because the waves of ether excited by the one are different in length and period from those excited by the other. When we raise the temperature of our platinum spiral, we alter the quality of its heat. As the temperature is raised, shorter and ever shorter waves mingle in the radiation. Dr. Draper, in a very beautiful investigation, has shown that when platinum first appears luminous, it emits only red rays, but as its temperature augments, orange, yellow, and green are successively added to the radiation, and when the platinum is so intensely heated as to emit white light, the decomposition of that light gives all the colours of the solar spectrum.

Almost all the vapours which we have hitherto examined are transparent to light, while all of them are, in some degree, opaque to obscure rays. This proves the incompetence of the molecules of these vapours to vibrate in visual periods, and their competence to vibrate in the slower periods of the waves which fall beyond the red of the spectrum. Conceive then our platinum spiral to be gradually raised from a state of obscure to a state of luminous heat; the change would manifestly tend to produce *discord* between the radiating platinum and the molecules of our vapours; and the higher we raise the temperature of our platinum, the more decided will be the discord. On *a priori* grounds, then, we should infer that the raising of the temperature of the platinum spiral ought to augment the power of its rays to pass through our list of vapours. This conclusion is entirely verified by the experiments. (Pp. 423, 424.)

Professor Tyndall indicates as follows the difference between the action of transparent and opaque objects upon the incident rays:—

Supposing waves of any period to impinge upon an assemblage of molecules of any other period, it is, I think, physically certain that a tremor of greater or less intensity will be set up among the molecules; but for the motion to *accumulate*, so as to produce sensible absorption, coincidence of period is necessary. Briefly defined, therefore, transparency is synonymous with *discord*, while opacity is synonymous with *accord*, between the periods of the waves of ether and those of the molecules of the body on which they impinge. (P. 423.)

Amongst the various points of importance disclosed in these experiments on the passage of radiant heat through vapours, the most interesting single result, in its practical applications, is the high absorbent power of aqueous vapour for certain qualities of radiant heat; particularly in its bearings upon meteorology and climate. Aqueous vapour allows the heat emitted from the sun to traverse it freely, but after the solar rays have been absorbed by the earth, the heat becomes altered in quality, and when it is again radiated forth it is of lower refrangibility; the periods of its undulation become reduced in frequency, and, as thus radiated from the earth, it can no longer traverse a stratum of aqueous vapour without undergoing a very considerable absorption. In an article like the present it is not possible, adequately, to develop this subject, but the following quotation may assist in giving some idea of the extent and importance of this action of aqueous vapour:—

A freedom of escape, similar to that from

bodies of vapour at great elevations, would occur at the earth's surface generally, were the aqueous vapour removed from the air above it; for the body of the atmosphere is a practical vacuum as regards the transmission of radiant heat. The withdrawal of the sun from any region over which the atmosphere is dry, must be followed by quick refrigeration. . . . The winters of Thibet are almost unendurable from the same cause. Witness how the isothermal lines dip from the north into Asia, in winter, as a proof of the low temperature of this region. Humboldt has dwelt upon the "frigorific power" of the central portions of this continent, and controverted the idea that it was to be explained by reference to the elevation; there being vast expanses of country not much above the sea level with an exceedingly low temperature. But not knowing the influences which we are now studying, Humboldt, I imagine, omitted one most important cause which contributed to the observed result. The absence of the sun at night causes powerful refrigeration when the air is dry. The removal for a single summer night of the aqueous vapour from the atmosphere which covers England, would be attended by the destruction of every plant which a freezing temperature could kill. In Sahara, where "the soil is fire and the wind is flame," the refrigeration at night is often painful to bear. Ice has been formed in this region at night. In Australia, also, the *diurnal range* of temperature is very great, amounting commonly to between 40° and 50°. In short, it may be safely predicted that wherever the air is dry, the daily thermometric range will be great. This, however, is quite different from saying that where the air is *clear* the thermometric range will be great. Great clearness to light is perfectly compatible with great opacity to heat; the atmosphere may be charged with aqueous vapour while a deep blue sky is overhead; and on such occasions the terrestrial radiation would, notwithstanding the "clearness," be intercepted. (Pp. 397, 398.) Regarding the earth as a source of heat, no doubt at least ten per cent. of its heat is intercepted within ten feet of the surface. This single fact suggests the enormous influence which this newly-developed property of aqueous vapour must have in the phenomena of meteorology. (P. 390.)

In the appendix to the twelfth chapter of the work, the author gives an account of his experiments on luminous and obscure radiation, in the form of a reprint of his paper on this subject from the *Philosophical Magazine* for November, 1864. In these researches, advantage was taken of the relations of bisulphide of carbon and iodine to radiant heat and light. Liquid bisulphide of carbon is highly transparent to rays both of light and of heat. It has also the power of dissolving iodine freely, and of forming with it a deep violet-coloured solution. By increasing the quantity of iodine dissolved, the absorbent power of this solution upon light may be rendered sufficiently intense to cut off the whole of the luminous or visible rays, even when they proceed direct from the sun itself. This solution of iodine in the bisulphide, however, allows radiant heat to pass through it when enclosed in cells with rock-salt sides, with scarcely any sensible diminution. By means of a hollow lens of rock-salt, filled with this solution, Professor Tyndall succeeded in obtaining both from the sun and from the radiant heat developed by the ignition of charcoal points in the electric lamp, a focus of *invisible* heat of sufficient intensity to kindle inflammable objects, such as paper and gunpowder; and he has subsequently even obtained an amount of heat so great as to render thin platinum red hot when placed in the focus. In this way he has demonstrated that it is possible to convert heat of low refrangibility into heat of high refrangibility; not merely to alter the rate of vibration by *lowering* its rapidity, but to *increase* the frequency of vibration until heat becomes converted into light. The possibility of effecting this change, it is true, had been surmised by some of his predecessors, owing to the effects obtained by introducing solid objects, such as a mass of lime, into a feebly luminous flame like that of the oxy-hydrogen jet, but the brilliant and

complete realization of the idea was reserved to Professor Tyndall.

The reader who has followed us thus far will scarcely be satisfied without a further examination of Professor Tyndall's work, which is, indeed, throughout remarkable for vigour and originality of thought, and for the perspicuity with which his ideas, even when of an abstruse nature, are conveyed.

W. A. M.

THE QUEEN'S ENGLISH.

O. *Novo Guia da Conversação em Portuguez e Inglez.* Por José da Fonseca e Pedro Carolino. Paris: V^o J.-P. Ailland, Moulon, e C^o.

THIS volume is given to the world by the publishers to the Emperor of Brazil and the King of Portugal. Its object is to facilitate the acquiring of English by Brazilians and Portuguese. The intention is a laudable one. We give the compilers of the volume full credit for earnestness. They lack, however, one qualification, one which, unfortunately, is indispensable, that is, a slight acquaintance with the language they profess to teach. If other guides to conversation are written after the same fashion, we can well understand why it is that so many foreigners speak English as they do. It would be a sheer waste of space to criticize this volume. We can show that José da Fonseca and Pedro Carolino are entirely ignorant of our tongue without entering into an argument. A few quotations will at once demonstrate the truth of our remarks and amuse our readers. We shall quote the preface to this volume: it is not long, and it will, in one sense, well repay perusal:—

A choice of *familiar Dialogues*, clean of gallicisms, and despoiled phrases, it was missing yet to studious portuguese and brazilian Youth; and also to persons of others nations, that wish to know the portuguese language. We sought all we may do, to correct that want, composing and dividing the present little work in two parts. The first includes a greatest vocabulary proper names by alphabetical order; and the second fourty three *Dialogues* adapted to the usual precisions of the life. For that reason we did put, with a scrupulous exactness, a great variety own expressions to english and portuguese idioms; without to attach us selves (as make some others) almost at a literal translation; translation what only will be for to accustom the portuguese pupils, or-foreign, to speak very bad any of the mentioned idioms. We were increasing this second edition with a phraseology, in the first part, and some familiar letters, anecdotes, idiotisms, proverbs, and to second a coin's index.

The *Works* which we were conferring for this labour, fond use us for nothing; but those what were publishing to Portugal, or out, they were almost all composed for some foreign, or for some national little acquainted in the spirit of both languages. It was resulting from that corelessness to rest these *Works* fill of imperfections, and anomalies of style; in spite of the infinite typographical faults which some times, invert the sense of the periods. It increase not to contain any of those *Works* the figured pronunciation of the english words, nor the prosodical accent in the portuguese: indispensable object when we wish to speak the english and portuguese languages correctly.

We expect then, who the little book (for the care what we wrote him, and for her typographical correction) that may be worth the acceptation of the studious persons, and especially of the Youth, at which we dedicate him particularly.

Judging from the choice English of the preface, it is easy to anticipate the character of the contents. The Brazilian and Portuguese "Youth at which" this book is dedicated will find that familiar dialogues, although "clean of gallicisms and despoiled phrases," may yet be of little service to them in learning English. The dialogues provide for nearly every emergency, excepting only when it is necessary to make oneself understood. At no time is it more important to express our meaning clearly than when we are ill, and are informing a medical man of our symptoms. Here is the dialogue to be used "For to visit a sick":—

How have you passed the night?

Very bad. I have not slept; i have had the

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fever during all night. I felt some pain every where body.

Live me see your tongue. Have you pain to the heart?

Yes, sir, sometimes.

Are you altered?

Yes, i have thursty often.

Let me feel your pulse.

It is some fever.

Do you think my illness dangerous?

Your stat have nothing from troublesome.

It must to send to the apothecary, i go to write the prescription.

What is composed the medicine what i have to take?

Rhubarb, and tartar cream, &c.

You shall take a spoonful of this potion hour by hour.

It must to diet one's self to day.

What i may to eat?

You can take a broth.

Can i to get up my self?

Yes, during an hour or two.

Let me have another thing to do?

Take care to hold you warmly, and in two or three days you shall be cured.

In this volume there is plenty more of the same kind, but we have quoted as much as is needful for the amusement of our readers. In the Exhibition of 1862 some foreigners distributed circulars which were nearly as great curiosities in their way as the foregoing extracts. Examples taken from two of them, the one being the production of an Italian, the other of a German, will prove that it is not the Portuguese who have the monopoly of murdering the Queen's English. An Italian, having discovered one of those marvellous waters which render ladies "beautiful for ever," tells his own story thus:—

This admirable invention, for its abundant hygeian prerogatives, is excellent for washing one's self by putting some drops into pure water, which turns immediately to a milky colour, preserving the odour: it takes out spots of epidermis, takes away wrinkles, and renders the skin very bright and smooth: it preserves the teeth, appeases the most acute toothache, and gives to the breath a balmy smell: it is most useful also for purifying infectious air, and keeping off fevers in unhealthy climates: it gives strength to the body by putting one or two phials into water prepared for a bath; heals small wounds, takes away pimples from the skin, stings of insects, and is a most efficacious remedy for scalds and burns. It is necessary to remember also, that the external characteristic signs of this liquid, are of a reddish colour, of a rare clearness, and of a delicate fragrance, altogether unlike any other preparation of aroma of flowers. These prized qualities awoke in the purchasers a desire to be able to sprinkle it upon their linen, but found that they could not do so without staining them. The inventor then considering himself able to render the cosmetic useful also for that purpose, devoted himself again to a new experiment, by which he succeeded to overturn the power of the colouring ingredients so as to extract a white Felsina Water, little inferior to the other.

What other nations miss by hastiness the Germans attain by patient labour. Thus when they go wrong they go even farther wrong than less solid thinkers. In giving an example of the mode in which English has been written by Germans, we are perplexed by this difficulty. The most extraordinary specimen of English we ever read was contained in a circular describing an apparatus which a medical journal might describe, but which even a medical journal would treat with greater reticence than the German exhibitor. Here is an extract from one, however, which has a special value at the present time, when burglars are breaking open the most elaborate safes. The document from which we quote

Was enclosed in the safes, during the improvement in fire, which is discribed on other side, like proves this stamp. The fireproofs made with our iron safes in a furnace of the manufactory of porcelain, markes alone the exact statement by the degrees of ardour, which was attained in the interior and exterior of the safes.

Our safes, constructed in the manner of the door and window of this here exposed room secur in fire, were during 3 hours in the ardour of dissolving silver, and contained this paper.

A persistance like that was never attained and we invite all manufacturers of safes, to exhibit a likely product, from an official proof!

"NURSES WANTED."

IN an interesting article in the April number of *The Cornhill Magazine*, we are informed that:—

There is a vocation for women almost entirely neglected in this country; an occupation combining the advantages which Adam Smith represents as alternatives—of social repute and pecuniary profit; an employment undisturbed by any jealousy of men, congenial with all the best instincts of women, universally honoured, and better paid than any other woman's work, except, as has been said, that of queens and of actresses! Yet those who must know tell us that so it is; and the very few who at all apprehend the magnitude of the interest to our countrymen, ask what can be the meaning of such an apathy as the women of England are showing in regard to such an opportunity as was never offered to them before. The occupation is nursing.

If, indeed, it is really true that a highly-paid profession, standing high in public esteem, and agreeable to those who exercise it, can find no recruits, while those who could exercise it are starving or thrusting one another aside in poor and humble occupations, we may well ask, with the writer in *The Cornhill Magazine*, "What can it mean?"

Before, however, agreeing with this writer that the case is "as astonishing as it is painful," it may be worth while to try whether the application of the same rules by which we judge the conduct of men may not explain women's motives in the affairs of life. The method will at least have the merit of novelty; perhaps, also, it may have the higher merit of being in accordance with modern ideas of science, and of the universality of law. It will be no small confirmation of this, in the instance of the laws of political economy, as well as an additional argument for persistence in the practical application of them if we find that one-half of mankind is governed by the same inducements and acts upon the same motives as the other half.

Now, in the passage we have just quoted, there occurs a sentence over which we cannot but pause. There is in this country, says the writer in *The Cornhill*, an employment for women, "undisturbed by any jealousy of men." This looks ominous. Can it be worth disturbing? Men, who invade the milliner's shop with as much eagerness as the kitchen; men, who sew, and spin, and weave; men, who dress women's hair and teach little girls to play the piano; men who have never yet seemed to think any occupation too easy or too effeminate, if only it is agreeable and well-paid—why should they leave this one undisturbed? "Because it is peculiarly congenial to feminine instincts," we are told, although apparently not quite so pleasant to men. And then, by a singular coincidence, it appears that women also insist on leaving it undisturbed! The case is altogether remarkable, unless, indeed, it calls to mind the negro observation that "Caesar and Pompey are berry much alike—specially Pompey."

Nursing, we are told, is congenial to the best instincts of women. Probably it is. And perhaps to men's best instincts too. So is all self-sacrifice. But are women in general desirous of devoting their lives to their best instincts? When father or mother, or brother or sister, or husband or child, are in danger of death, most women who cannot afford to pay a troop of servants, and some who can, will nurse with devoted affection those whom they love, and, by the aid of mother-wit and an ardent desire to succeed, will often do as much as, and sometimes much more than, any paid nurse can do. Instances have also been known, on exploring expeditions and other occasions, when no tolerably competent women could be got to do the work, when men have nursed their companions very kindly and well, and have undergone weeks and months of disagreeable and laborious work (not congenial to their best instincts?) rather than let their friends die of neglect. This points to the conclusion that self-sacrifice is congenial to the best instincts of both sexes, and to their best instincts only. But men are not jealous of a pursuit which

requires the whole life to be passed in sadness and anxiety, in the contemplation of suffering and death, and—since human nature is mortal—in a generally unavailing struggle with inevitable fate. Shall we ask with astonishment why women are equally slow in presenting themselves for this same occupation? The law of parsimony, of which philosophers make so much use, will help us here. One cause is sufficient to explain both phenomena, and we need not seek for any other. To say that women are governed by different motives to men, and then to refuse to accept a sufficient explanation of their conduct, because it is the same that accounts for men's like conduct in a like case, is to argue in a circle, if indeed it can be dignified with the name of argument at all.

The writer in *The Cornhill Magazine* thinks, however, that the profession of nurse may fairly be compared, both in its disadvantages and its inducements, to that of surgeon:—

As to the distastefulness of the office, the same thing is true, in a far more forcible way, of the profession of surgeon: yet we have surgeons enough, and always shall have. Some of us may feel or fancy that we had rather sweep a crossing than have to operate on the human frame as surgeons must; and if so, we have only to avoid that profession. It would be folly to go further, and wonder that we have surgeons enough, while the fact is before our eyes that surgeons have a pride and pleasure in their occupation—a pride and pleasure always increasing, long after the first trials of nerve have been forgotten, and the very sense of them lost.

It is doubtful how many men would prefer the profession of surgeon to that of crossing-sweeper if the relative chances of remuneration in money and public honour were reversed. We have carefully sought through the article for any clear statement of the highest pay a professional nurse may hope to obtain. We are told that the lowest pay received by the hospital nurses who have been trained by the Nightingale Fund is 20*l.* a-year. The highest is nowhere stated; we can only guess at it from the statement that "India and the Colonies would afford a career of honour and profit," and that at Sydney a nurse may get 20*l.* a-month. This last, the highest sum anywhere indicated, would amount to 240*l.* a-year for a nurse in constant employment, and would, in that case, be in addition to board and lodging. It would, however, also in that case be inconsistent with her having a home of her own, or being married. We confess to doubting whether the profession of surgeon would be well filled if the prospects it held out amounted to only the double of this. It seems that the highest income which a nurse may hope to obtain amounts to only a little less than the lowest on which a surgeon may starve. And yet this is by no means the most important difference that exists between the two professions.

It has long been observed that it is the prizes of a profession that attract to it, rather than the average level of reward it promises. A popular journal is even now constantly lamenting that we can no longer expect educated men to enter the Church as a profession, and that it is vain to raise the average incomes of the lower clergy to some 300*l.* or 500*l.* a-year, if at the same time the thousands of the bishops are pared away. Yet a bishop, at the lowest, is a peer, and has influence and patronage in his hands which may in some degree compensate for his beggarly income of 5,000*l.* or 10,000*l.* a-year. Now, although there may be some utterly unsuccessful surgeons who do not earn more than the most successful nurses, yet the profession of a surgeon is one which holds out the promise of some prizes good enough in their way. A man who has distinguished himself, besides earning three or four times as many thousands as a nurse can earn hundreds, often receives a public acknowledgment of his services to humanity in the form of a baronetcy. This is a high gratification to many of our title-loving countrymen, and would be to our countrywomen too; so that the mere chance of a feminine form of it would certainly

induce hundreds to enrol themselves among professional nurses. The name of Lady Florence Nightingale, even without the knowledge that that lady's professional income amounted to some 10,000*l.* a-year, would bring forward crowds of candidates at every training hospital in England, even though nurses in general only gained their 10*l.* or 20*l.* a-year.

The occupations of domestic servant, milliner, governess, are not without their chances of social success. Those who enter into these may fairly and legitimately flirt and look about them for a husband, may marry very well, and, as the wives of prosperous tradesmen, and sometimes of gentlemen, may become the objects of emulation to their less successful compeers. The nurse has little chance of all this. She may, it is true, begin life with 10*l.* a-year instead of 5*l.*, like a humble servant-maid, but the servant-maid may rise to be cook or ladies'-maid, may marry the butler or one of the tradesmen, set up an hotel or a shop, and end life as Mrs. Jones, of Holly Lodge, with her carriage and her footman, "and everything comfortable about her." Now, supposing even that any woman who could and would bear the sad, serious life of a nurse were capable of entering into it with a view to her chances of getting married and using it for the purposes of flirtation, the chances would still be less in that than in any other occupation. In almost all the other occupations of women, a good marriage is the prize the hope of which induces them to enter into the career and compete for the insufficient pay they receive. If we really desire to see women enter in numbers into the useful and honourable, but melancholy and ill-paid, profession of nurse, we must give to nurses, as we give to surgeons, some public recognition of their services. It would be as repugnant to public morality and the public interest if nurses were to look out for husbands among the relations of their patients, as it would be if medical men trusted to marrying the rich widows and heiresses of theirs. And the majority of women will, as little as men, enter with eagerness into a career which promises all blanks and no prizes, however high may be its moral excellence. Human nature will act on its best instincts on great occasions, but cannot be kept for ever on the stretch, and must be governed in ordinary life by the hope of some reward for its exertions. If we are determined to refuse women all reward and all honour for their services, and yet would utilize their energies, we must, as the Catholic Church does, bid them turn their ambition to a better world, where there is no distinction of sex. H. T.

A FEMALE EVANGELIST.

HETTY SORREL was a greater favourite with the readers of "Adam Bede" than Dinah Morris. It was said by many that a woman who acted as the latter did, forgot her position if she did not disgrace her sex. Why a woman should not do as she pleases, so long as she does not injure her neighbours or herself, we are unable to understand! Why it should be held that preaching is more unladylike than flirting, is beyond our comprehension! A great deal may be said against both; but, assuredly, the one is not more wicked than the other. In the breasts of some very worthy people, the fact that Mrs. Thistlethwayte, a lady of wealth and position, has recently been preaching in various parts of the metropolis, may excite apprehensions for the stability of all human arrangements. For our own part, we see no objection to lay-men or women endeavouring to impress on the minds of others the truths which they themselves believe essential to their eternal happiness. We may not agree with all or any of the doctrines propounded with great natural eloquence by Mrs. Thistlethwayte. Her views we may regard as fundamentally unsound. We may even consider that her energies are expended in vain. But of the sincerity of her convictions we have no doubt. Her boldness in braving the world's ridicule, solely that she may do good after her own fashion, we heartily admire. The tone of her preaching is in marked contrast with that of other lay preachers, and of nearly all Dissenters. It is the Gospel of

peace which she proclaims, endeavouring to persuade sinners to repent, in place of threatening them with damnation.

The difficulties she has to overcome are very numerous, the least of these being public apathy, the greatest, public credulity. The giddy public is only too ready, firstly, to be converted by a lady; and secondly, to worship her as a saint. Joanna Southcote is an instance of this which will occur to every reader. There is another which is equally to the point, though less known. A few years ago, a lady holding a high place in society devoted herself, as Mrs. Thistlethwayte now does, to the saving of souls. She held, however, that the only way in which sin could be wiped out was by means of adult baptism. One day she proposed to work a miracle. She told everyone that her faith was so strong that, like our Saviour, she could walk on the water. The experiment was made, but she instantly sank, and had to be fished up. Notwithstanding this failure, the lady in question prosecuted her task, and both retained her adherents and gained new converts.

Her very earnestness may betray Mrs. Thistlethwayte into a similar blunder. Be that as it may, and regarding her solely as a well-meaning and self-sacrificing lady, we think that her conduct, if it does not merit the imitation of others, ought not to be sneered at by any one. All true service deserves recognition. Mrs. Thistlethwayte certainly means well, and may possibly do some good. Hence we applaud her efforts, though unable to approve of all her projects, or coincide with any of her views.

The Hunting Grounds of the Old World. By H. A. L. ("The Old Shekarry"). Third Edition. (Longmans.)—*Life in Normandy.* Third Edition. (Edmonston & Douglas.)—Both of the above volumes deserve the heartiest recommendation we can give them. In the eyes of many the mere fact of third editions having been called for will be a sufficient testimony as to their value. We do not think it is generally known that "Life in Normandy" has been employed for other purposes than to be read solely for amusement. We know cases of gentlemen whose fondness for good dinners is greater than their capacity for enjoying them, perusing certain chapters of that work in order to whet their appetites. We understand that the result is generally satisfactory. Certainly, it is as novel as it is pleasing to be able to obtain an appetite for a meal by the perusal of an instructive and delightful book.

A Visit to the Cities and Camps of the Confederate States. By Fitzgerald Ross. (William Blackwood & Sons.)—The interest of this volume is gone. It is lively and entertaining, and contains several curious facts about the condition of the Confederate States before the victories of Sherman and Grant, and the surrender of Lee and Johnstone, and the flight of Jefferson Davis, had caused the very name of the "Confederate States" to be a misnomer. Captain Ross evidently expected that the war would be more protracted, and the result less favourable to the Federals.

Lacon in Council. By J. F. Boyes. (Bell & Daldy.)—In his preface, Mr. Boyes tells us this "book is, in fact, a medley of maxims, similes, prose epigrams, conceits, and opinions generally backed by evidence." He generally takes as a text a sentence or passage from the writings of a distinguished author, and comments on it. At times he is very sensible; at others quite the reverse. An example of both will illustrate our meaning. Quoting the following line from Rousard, "Penser, et cent fois penser une pensée même," he goes on to remark: "One would think this were the prophecy of his countryman, Rochefoucauld. Take away his theory of universal selfishness, and his plagiarisms from Tacitus and others, and what remains to Rochefoucauld? Perhaps twenty or thirty sound aphorisms." Now, take away from any man his theory, and whatever is not wholly his own, and what remains? Quoting from Lord Auckland's diary the following: "At the Royal table (in Spain) a dish of conserves is always placed at one corner of the table to attract the flies," he remarks: "There are many tables where it might not be bad economy to give up *tout de bon* one character to be devoured by the gossips, to prevent fifty other characters from being fly-blown." In short, the volume is one wherein nearly every one will find something worth reading.

We have received the *Ophthalmic Review*, published by Hardwicke, of Piccadilly, and edited

by Messrs. Laurence and Windsor. This number opens with a survey of ophthalmic surgery at home and abroad, in which the writer endeavours to justify the predominance which the *Review* has given to German surgery. This is followed by an article by Dr. Lawson on the "Accommodation-power of the Eye." Dr. Lawson, after explaining the various views which have been put forward to account for the rapid adaptation of the eye to near and distant vision, states that his opinion is different from that generally held. He does not think that the adaptation is only produced by varying the convexity of the crystalline lens, but he refers the phenomena, if we rightly understand him, to a greater or less curvature of the cornea and the aqueous humour, replying to objections which may be urged against this view. In our scientific notes we quote the results obtained by a German observer, which appear to support Dr. Lawson's theory. The *Review* contains other original articles on ophthalmic surgery, and a large amount of miscellaneous information on the science chiefly gleaned from foreign medical journals.

Christendom's Divisions. Being a Philosophical Sketch of the Divisions of the Christian Family in East and West. By Edmund S. Ffoulkes. (Longman & Co. Pp. 258.)—Our author begins with the Jews, and touches on all the salient points of the Church and her history, showing the rise of this policy or custom, and the decline of that; the growing relations between one city and another, ripening and then decaying; the heresies of one age, the corruptions of another, and the reforms of a third; the relapsings and rallyings of Christendom, East and West—Catholic, Protestant, and Greek. "The moral of my book," says our author in his preface—which, by the bye, is dated "Feast of the Conversion of S. Paul, 1865"—"will be, that there have been secret misgivings in the mind of Christendom that all was not right, ever since its divisions commenced: and who that reflects upon them can think them unfounded? There is little in the attitude of Christians towards each other which any one of us can be proud of; and there is a vast deal, surely, which all who love Christ and His holy religion must feel it to be their duty to take to heart, and labour to do all in their power to remedy! Here, then, is my mite towards it—'Doctor Gentium, ora pro nobis.'"

Israel in the Wilderness; or, Gleanings from the Scenes of the Wanderings. With an Essay on the True Date of Korah's Rebellion. By the Rev. C. Forster, B.D. (Bentley. Pp. 308.)—The long introduction to this volume, forty-five pages, is devoted to combating Professor Beer's theory of the comparatively modern age of the inscriptions on Mount Sinai and its neighbourhood. Mr. Forster regards these Sinaitic records as of entirely Israelite authorship, and he believes he has fully unfolded and illustrated the fact in his recently-published work of "Sinai Photographed." The great bulk of the volume, which is largely illustrated with hieroglyphics and their decipherment, "elucidates, not for Biblical scholars alone, but for general readers, the scenes of the wanderings." These wanderings are regarded from the strictly orthodox point of view. Mr. Forster lapses occasionally from the argumentative into the combative tone.

The Ibis: a Quarterly Journal of Ornithology. Edited by Alfred Newton, M.A., F.L.S., F.Z.S. New Series, Vol. i., Nos. 1 and 2. (Van Voorst.)—The lovers of birds here possess a journal devoted to their favourite subject, which can hardly be surpassed in usefulness and beauty. The first series of this periodical was edited by Dr. Sclater, and consists of six handsome and finely-illustrated volumes, which should be in the library of every ornithologist; and, if we may judge by the two numbers for the present year, it seems likely that its reputation will be fully sustained by the present editor.

Several articles of very great interest occur in these numbers. Mr. Edward Newton gives an account of a visit to the Island of Rodriguez, and tells us how he found some bones of the Dodo in one of the caves, although he had time only to run in and out again, the party he was with having to return while the tide served. Surely, now, when so much interest is felt in extinct animals, funds could be raised for the exploration of these caves, and of any others that may exist in the Mauritius or Bourbon. Mr. Tristram, so well known for his travels in Palestine, contributes a most attractive and instructive paper on the birds of that country; preceded by a sketch of its physical geography, and of the

curious affinities of the fishes of the Sea of Galilee with those of the rivers and lakes of Central Africa. Mr. Tristram's enthusiasm and good taste make all that he writes delightful reading. Mr. Osbert Salvin gives an account of the extraordinary bell-bird of Costa Rica, and of the sea-birds and waders of the Pacific Coast of Guatemala. Dr. Coues, of the United States Army, writes on the birds of the new territory of Arizona, in the Rocky Mountains; while the editor gives the ornithological results of his late journey to Spitzbergen. Besides these well-varied subjects, there are the first two of a series of papers on the distribution of British birds, treated after the manner of Mr. Watson's "Cybele Britannica," and illustrated by a coloured map; some interesting contributions to the natural history of the Cuckoo and the great Bustard, and other papers on technical ornithology. These are illustrated by three coloured plates of birds in each number, the figures drawn by Wolf in his inimitable manner.

A most important and valuable feature of this publication remains to be noticed. It is a complete record of ornithological publications in all parts of the world, with notes and criticisms, and, when necessary, abstracts of the contents. To this succeeds correspondence from ornithologists at home and abroad, and information as to works projected and the progress of collectors. When we add that the paper, printing, and general getting up are in the very best style, we trust we have said enough to induce all interested in birds to take in a periodical from which they will derive so much instruction and entertainment, and one which we feel sure must entail a considerable pecuniary loss on the gentlemen who support it.

Stammering and Stuttering, their Nature and Treatment. By James Hunt, Ph.D., &c. 6th Edition. (Longman & Co.)—It seems remarkable that there should exist stammerers and stutterers enough to enable this excellent work to reach a sixth edition. There are, however, more suffering under this double-edged affliction, paining him who speaks and him who hears, than one would imagine; the author believes that the numbers of those having an impediment in their speech approach 3 in every 1,000, and, strangely enough, it is the male sex that are by far the greater sufferers. Estimated from the sale of the book, these numbers appear possible. In the first edition, Dr. Hunt stated that defective speech was the result of civilization. We now notice he publishes a letter from a physician resident in Africa, who asserts that stammering is very common among the negro race. We wish that Dr. Hunt had, by fewer quotations, allowed himself more room for details of his treatment as applied to special cases; nevertheless, the book will certainly be read with profit by every stutterer, negroes among the number.

MEDICAL BOOKS.

Acupressure; a New Method of Arresting Surgical Hemorrhage, and of Accelerating the Healing of Wounds. By James Y. Simpson, M.D., F.R.S.E. (Edinburgh: A. and C. Black.)—This is a book expounding a new method of surgery which wants no words of ours to commend it, seeing that it is already in full operation, not only in our Northern medical schools, but in America, Australia, and Asia, and that in fifty months acupressure has spread more than the ligature did in fifty years. Nor is this the pamphlet which Dr. Syme with injudicious fingers tore up before his class, but a goodly volume of some 580 pages, which make up in facts what they lack in arrangement. From the time of Celsus downwards hemorrhage has been the surgeon's bugbear. It is fearful to think of the number of lives which amputation would have saved, had the fear of hemorrhage not prevented the operation. Up to the present time the methods employed to prevent the loss of blood have been cauterization and deligation. The former speaks for itself, the latter is the 'physical constriction and obstruction of the canals of the divided arteries by tying with sufficient tightness a thread ligature round them, immediately above their open extremities.' Acupressure is a third remedy, described in the book before us. It consists of the artificial arrestment of the hemorrhage from cut or wounded arteries by the pressure of a metallic needle or pin passed across their mouths or tubes. After describing the three methods by which he has found that this remedy may preferably be applied, he not only places before us cases in which the success of his method is fully proved, but a complete monograph on hemorrhage surgery in general, dealing with the subject in its broadest possible

aspect and in the most masterly manner. His book, as well as his method, is an acknowledged gain to his profession, and we would willingly notice it at greater length did our space permit.

Lectures on Public Health, delivered at the Royal College of Surgeons, Dublin. By E. D. Mapother, M.D. Illustrated by twenty woodcuts. (Dublin: Fannin & Co. London: Hardwicke.)—We have rarely seen so many facts in which we are all of us interested compressed into such a small space as is occupied by the 276 pages of this little work. Nor is the arrangement of them less satisfactory. Air, water, food, their uses and abuses, occupy some 127 pages; and the chapter on water is especially valuable, as in it are most of Dr. Dundas Thompson's results and the London cholera teachings fully dwelt upon. The advantages of cold baths and exercise, and especially horse exercise, are pointed by Frederick the Great's dictum, that 'When I consider the physical standard of man, it appears to me that nature had formed us rather to be postillions than sedentary men of letters;' while our author evidently looks with envious eye upon our Volunteer movement, 'which it appears must be, on account of our reputed pugnacity, denied us' (the lectures were delivered in Ireland). Nor has Dr. Cobbold's 'outcome,' prevented Dr. Mapother upholding the example of our athletes training on nearly raw meat. 'Sanitary Architecture,' 'The Influences of Soil and Climate on Disease,' 'Prevention of Zymotic and Constitutional Diseases,' and 'The Vital Statistics of Ireland,' are the titles of the concluding lectures. The book cannot be too widely read, and we trust Dr. Mapother's audience will be increased a hundred-fold by its means.

The Senses and the Intellect. By Alexander Bain. Second Edition. (London: Longmans. 1864.)—It says something for the attention paid to psychological studies in England, that Mr. Bain's first volume has reached a second edition. The great sensationalist reaffirms all his main positions, endeavouring only to better their expression. Thus he has expanded his definition of mind, has treated more at length the instinctive foundations of volition—one of the most valuable portions of his work, as bringing into juster prominence the part played by the physiological tendencies to action developed within the bodily frame—and has sought further to illustrate sympathy by reference to the physical seat of revived impressions. The analysis of the intellectual processes has been carried one step further by the resolution of contrast as an associative principle into the reproductive aspect of discrimination or relativity. The origin of our notions of time and space has been more minutely treated; and lastly, the 'great metaphysical problem of the external world' has received a further handling. We confess that Mr. Bain's treatment of this last question has ever seemed to us very interesting, and we think it deserves a greater prominence than he has given to it. We should like to see where it would lead him, and whether an explicit understanding on this point would not show him to stand altogether on the spiritualist side. Our readers are probably aware that he allows no 'independent' existence to the physical world, and affirms its externality to be 'figurative' without mind, no world. The object or external is the part of mind common to all, remaining permanent, while that which is proper to the individual passes. 'My object-consciousness is as much a part of my being, as my subject-consciousness is. Only, when I am gone, other beings will sustain and keep alive the object part of my consciousness, while the subject part is in abeyance. The object is the perennial, the common to all; the subject is the fluctuating, the special to each.' Therefore, when all our faculties, experience, knowledge, are traced so ingeniously, and with so elaborate an analysis to physical elements, we are really by no means reduced (as seems to be the process) to offshoots and products of 'matter.' Not so. It is the universal element of 'mind,' moulding, developing, becoming the individual. If not so, we should be glad to hear Mr. Bain say how it is, at any rate while waiting for further light upon this point, we are able heartily to enjoy the admirable skill (demanding now no tribute from us) with which the physical relations of sensation and instinct are traced out, and the vigorous analysis of the intellectual processes with which the volume concludes. The description of the characteristics of inventive and analytical genius has ever appeared to us admirable; especially the recognition of the 'stroke of identification' of things really similar

though apparently unlike, and the insensibility to other and irrelevant aspects of the objects involved. In republishing the volume, we perceive that Mr. Bain has in many instances incorporated with his physiological descriptions the results of the most recent scientific research.

Miscellaneous Observations on the Blood. By John Davy, M.D., F.R.S.L. and E., &c.—These observations are given in six sections: 1. On the action of water on the red corpuscles of the blood. 2. The changes which take place in the blood when excluded from the air. These are much the same as when blood is exposed to the air. 3. The action of the air-pump on the blood. Least air was obtained from the blood of the common fowl; more from that of animals killed after feeding than after fasting; more from venous than arterial blood; more from serum of the blood. 4. Effects of a low temperature on the blood. The freezing of blood does not preserve it from change of composition. 5. The action of ammonia on the blood. The coagulation of the blood is in no wise owing to the escape of the volatile alkali. 6. The coagulation of the blood. The author thinks that Professor Lister's hypothesis is not sufficiently founded on fact, and that the true cause of the change is still to be discovered.

Beneficence in Disease: Being an Introductory Address delivered at the Opening of St. Mary's Hospital Medical School. By Joseph Toynbee, F.R.S. (Churchill.)—An admirable lecture, pointing out how nature tries to relieve a general injury by means of a chronic local affection, and that it is the duty of all medical men to seek to ascertain what nature is endeavouring to accomplish by the so-called diseased processes, and what local or general injury she is attempting to overcome. The moral of the lecture is as follows:—

Instead of regarding disease as a scourge from the Creator, which we can therefore scarcely hope to abate or end, let us confidently trust, that as each succeeding generation of mankind learns better how to live, how to gain from life an increased amount of good with less encountering of injury, disease will become less necessary, its sorrowful presence will diminish, and a much larger share of happiness will be the inheritance of mankind, even in this world.

The Laryngoscope. Directions for its Use, &c. Two Lectures delivered at the Royal College of Physicians. By G. Johnson, M.D. (Hardwicke.)—This pamphlet consists of a reprint, in a very convenient form, of the two lectures as reported in the *Lancet*, and it could scarcely have been possible to choose more interesting subject-matter, or to arrange it in a better form than that in which it is here presented to us. Dr. Johnson is frank as well as learned, and not only must we hail, as a world-wide blessing, the introduction of this instrument, which already has been the means of saving so many lives, but we must be thankful that our practitioners—that is, if they will only take Dr. Johnson's advice—will not be likely to abuse its usefulness.

Skin Diseases: their Description, Pathology, Diagnosis, and Treatment. With a copious Formulary. By Tilbury Fox, M.D. London, &c. (London: Hardwicke.)—As a field of pathology, there are perhaps few regions of the body equal to the skin. The maladies to which it is subject are legion, and their variety immense, answering to the manifold structures which enter into its composition. In no other region, also, can remedial means be so freely applied and so fairly tested as on the skin. It forms a very paradise for doctors. We do not wonder, therefore, at the multitude of works which issue from the press in relation to skin diseases and their treatment, of which Dr. Fox's is certainly a favourable specimen. It gives a summary of British and Continental views; yet is by no means a mere compilation—the marks of an observant eye and experienced hand are visible throughout. With the animals and plants which take root in or browse upon our poor integument, Dr. Fox is particularly at home. We heartily wish him and his compeers success in his attempt to exterminate them all. Sufficiently good living and cleanliness appear to be the great preventive specifics, and these—however we may look askance at the formidable array of formulas ready to be launched against the unfortunate patients—must command universal approbation. When it comes to mutton chops and baths versus pitch and potash, not to speak of more awful sounding names, we say mutton chops for ever, and any amount of soap and water.

13 MAY, 1865.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE WEEK.

- ANDERSON (William). Self-made Men. 2nd Edition. Post 8vo, pp. ix.—308. *Shew. 6s.*
- ANNALES Monastiel. Vol. 2. Edited by H. R. Luard. Roy. 8vo, hf. bd. Longman. 10s.
- BARR (Matthias). Poems. Fesp. 8vo. Longman. 3s. 6d.
- BAXTER (Rev. M.). Louis Napoleon the Destined Monarch of the World, and Future Personal Antichrist, foreshown in Prophecy, &c., &c., &c. 9th Thousand. Fesp. 8vo, pp. 353. Macintosh. 2s. 6d.
- BEASLEY (Henry). Book of Prescriptions, containing more than 3,000 Prescriptions, collected from the Practice of the most Eminent Physicians and Surgeons, English and Foreign; comprising also a Compendious History of the Materia Medica, Lists of the Doses of all official or established Preparations, and an Index of Diseases and Remedies. 3rd Edition. Roy. 18mo, pp. xvi.—659. Churchill. 6s.
- BEECHER (Lyman, D.D.). Autobiography, Correspondence, &c., of. Edited by his Son, Charles Beecher. With Illustrations. In 2 Vols. Vol. 2. With Portrait. Post 8vo, pp. 587. *Low. 10s. 6d.*
- BLAIR (W. G., D.D., F.R.S.E.). Heads and Hands in the World of Labour. Sm. cr. 8vo, pp. x.—269. Strahan. 3s. 6d.
- BOOKER (Edward). Parthenia, a Drama. Fesp. 8vo. Pickering. 3s.
- BOYES (J. F.). Lacon in Council. Cr. 8vo, pp. xi.—259. Bell & Daldy. 6s. 6d.
- BUCKLE (Mrs.). Fif; or, Memoirs of a Canary Bird. Illustrated. Sq. cr. 8vo, pp. 90. E. Bumpus. 3s. 6d.
- BURNBY (Selina). Florence Manvers. 3 Vols. Post 8vo. Newby. 31s. 6d.
- BURGESS (William Roscoe, B.A.). Inquiry into the Relations of the Sin Offering and Trespass Offering to the Sacrifice of Christ. Post 8vo, pp. xii.—108. Bell & Daldy. 3s. 6d.
- CALAMY (Edmund, B.D.). Godly Man's Ark; or, City of Refuge in the Day of his Distress: Five Sermons designed for the Support and Consolation of the Saints of God in the Time of Affliction. New edition. 18mo, pp. vii.—208. Nisbet. 3s. 6d.
- CAMPAIGNER (A) at Home. By Shirley. Fesp. 8vo, hf. bd., pp. xvi.—307. Longman. 7s. 6d.
- CHATELAIN (Erckmann). The Conscript: a Tale of the French War of 1813. Translated from the French. With a Frontispiece. Cr. 8vo, pp. iv.—288. Smith & Elder. 6s.
- CHRIST, Life of. An Eclectic Gospel. By C. Delapryme, 8vo. Deighton, Bell, & Co. (Cambridge). Longman. 6s.
- COLERIDGE (S. T.). Letters, Conversations, and Recollections of. With a Preface by the Editor, Thomas Allsop. 3rd Edition. Post 8vo, pp. xii.—251. Farran. 2s. 6d.
- CROCKFORD'S Clerical Directory for 1865; being a Biographical and Statistical Book of Reference for Facts Relating to the Clergy and the Church. 3rd Issue. Roy. 8vo, pp. viii.—866. Cox. 12s. 6d.
- CYRIL Blount; or, Trust-Money. By the Author of "Recommended to Mercy." 3 Vols. Post 8vo, pp. xxiv.—961. Chapman & Hall. 31s. 6d.
- COLLINS (W. Wilkie). Antonina; or, the Fall of Rome. New Edition. Fesp. 8vo, bds., pp. iv.—420. *Low. 2s. 6d.*
- DIXON (William Hepworth). Holy Land. With Illustrations. 2 Vols. 8vo, pp. xxxvi.—679. Chapman & Hall. 24s.
- ELEMENTARY Treatise (An) on Orthographic Projection; being a New Method of Teaching the Science of Mechanical and Engineering Drawing. With Illustrations. By William Binns. 4th Edition. 8vo. Spon. 9s.
- FARMER'S Hour of Trial (The). In Four Chapters. By a Friend to the Agriculturist. 8vo, sd., pp. 47. Simpkin. 1s.
- FENOUSSON (James, F.R.S.). Holy Sepulchre, and the Temple at Jerusalem. Being the Substance of Two Lectures delivered in the Royal Institution, Albemarle Street, on the 21st Feb., 1862, and 3rd March, 1865. With Illustrations. 8vo, pp. xvi.—151. Murray. 7s. 6d.
- GOLDSMITH'S History of England. Abridged. Divided into Sections, &c., by Edward Cox. 14th Edition. 12mo, bd. Mozley. 3s.
- GOUGH (Benjamin). Lyra Sabbatica. Hymns and Poems for Sundays and Holy Days. Fesp. 8vo, pp. xvi.—170. Houlston. 3s. 6d.
- HOLDEN. Folia Sivulæ Sive Eclogæ Poetarum Anglicorum in Latinitate et Græcæ Conversæ. Quas disposuit Hubertus A. Holden, LL.D. Volumen Primum, Continent Fasciculos 1, 2. Post 8vo, pp. xix.—416. Deighton, Bell, & Co. (Cambridge). Bell & Daldy. 10s. 6d.
- HUNTER (John, F.R.S.). Natural History of the Human Teeth. With Notes by Webb and Hulme. Roy. 8vo. Hardwicke. 7s. 6d.
- HORACE'S Odes. Books 1 and 2. Translated into English Verse, with the Carmen Seculare, &c., by H. N. Jones. Fesp. 8vo, hf. bd. Williams & Norgate. 4s. 6d.
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- KILLEN (Rev. J. M., M.A.). Our Friends in Heaven; or, the Mutual Recognition of the Redeemed in Glory Demonstrated. 15th Edition. Sm. cr. 8vo, pp. 272. Elliot. 3s. 6d.
- LIGHT (Rev. W. E., M.A.). Twenty-four Sermons: chiefly on Personal Religion and Christian Experience. Preached in the Parish Church of St. James the Apostle, Dover. Cr. 8vo, pp. xii.—353. Nisbet. 6s.
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- MARTIN (J. S.). Railway Freighter's Guide. Defining Mutual Liabilities of Carriers and Freighters, and explaining System of Rates, Accounts, Invoices, Cheques, Booking, and Permits, and all other Details pertaining to Traffic Management, as sanctioned by Acts of Parliament, Bye-Laws, or General Usage. Cr. 8vo, pp. 77. *Low. 2s. 6d.*
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- TRANSACTIONS of the National Association for the Promotion of Social Science. York Meeting, 1863. Edited by George W. Hastings, LL.B. 8vo, pp. xxxviii.—708. Longman. 12s.
- TRUBAN (W., C.E.). Iron Manufacture of Great Britain, Theoretically and Practically Considered; including descriptive Details of the Ores, Fuels, and Fluxes employed; the Preliminary Operation of Calcination, the Blast, Refining, and Puddling Furnaces, Engines and Machinery, and the various Processes in Union, &c., &c. Revised by J. Arthur Phillips and William H. Dorman, C.E. 3rd Edition, reprinted from the 2nd. 4to, pp. xix.—251. Spon. 42s.
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- WATSON (Rev. Richard). Sermons and Outlines. His Character and Writings, by James Dixon, D.D. Edited, with Biographical Sketch, by the Rev. William Willan. Cr. 8vo, pp. 351. Hamilton. 6s.
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OBITUARY.

JOHN GEORGE PHILLIMORE, Q.C.

TO undertake an important historical work would seem to be attended with fatal consequences. Fox, Mackintosh, and Macaulay were all struck down before the "Histories of England" on which they were engaged had been nearly completed. To these honoured names we must now add that of one whose qualifications were nearly as great as those of any of them, but whose performances have not attracted the attention excited by the achievements of each of them, the name of John George Phillimore. The instalment we have of his history is of a character to make us desire to see it completed. In one respect he was unfitted for writing a comprehensive history. Whatever had not been done by Tacitus, should not, he thought, be attempted by any other historian. Because Tacitus knew nothing of some of the "ologies" which are now supposed to be included in every educational programme, therefore, Mr. Phillimore argued, such knowledge was to be despised by modern historians. Moulding his style on that of the classical writers, Mr. Phillimore hoped thereby to produce some of their effects. The result was failure and consequent disappointment. Nevertheless, he showed so ardent a desire to eliminate truth from fiction, so much courage in stating opinions opposed to those which are fashionable, so strong a determination to uphold what he believed to be true against all gainsayers, that he commanded our respect even when he did not gain our approbation. We are glad to learn that, when death overtook him, another volume was nearly ready for publication of his "History of England."

He was born in 1809, was the eldest son of Joseph Phillimore, D.C.L., was educated at Weston, and became a student of Christ Church, Oxford. On the 5th of February, 1828, he was admitted a member of Lincoln's Inn. On the 23rd of November, 1832, he was called to the Bar; in 1851 the rank of Queen's Counsel was conferred upon him, and on the 3rd of November, 1851, he was elected a Bencher of his Inn. In 1852 the four Inns of Court decided upon providing for the legal education of students, through the medium of lectures and classes. Each Inn appointed one reader, and the four Inns appointed one jointly. The latter appointment related to the Readership of "Constitutional Law and Legal History." It was as flattering to Mr. Phillimore as it was honourable in the societies to agree to confer on him that important post. He fully sustained the opinions formed of his abilities by the able manner in which he discharged his duties. Between 1852 and 1857 he represented Leominster in the House of Commons. Not unfrequently he took part in the debates, but his speeches were marred, in the estimation

of those who had forgotten their Latin, by quotations from Tacitus with which they were adorned.

In 1846 he published a pamphlet on the "Reform of the Law;" in 1848, "Report of the Winchester and New College Case," and an "Introduction to the Study and History of Roman Law;" in 1851, "Lectures on Jurisprudence and Canon Law;" in 1856, "Principles and Maxims of Jurisprudence;" in 1863, the first volume of "The History of England during the Reign of George the Third;" and in 1864, "Private Law among the Romans."

He married a daughter of Sir Knight Bruce, by whom he had a son, who survives him. He died at Shiplake House, Oxfordshire, on the 27th of last month. An affection of the brain carried him off. This malady was aggravated, if not caused, by the intensity of his application to his favourite studies. In losing him, his friends lose one whom they honoured, and literature has lost a ripe scholar, a bold and earnest writer, and a man who nearly succeeded in attaining the highest rank as an historian.

HENRY CHRISTY.

Death is busy among our men of science, and it would seem that he now best loves to strike when the labours of a life are about to be crowned with some well-merited success. He snatched the Astronomical medal from Bond: Gratiolet—the great Gratiolet, over whom the Arnold-vaunted "Influence of Academies" had rested so long—thought at last to feed his children, and—he died; and now last of all, while those among us specially interested in the question of the day, the antiquity of man, were congratulating ourselves and the Council of the Royal Society that Mr. Christy was one of this year's selected candidates, we learn from France, the scene of his recent labours, that he is no more.

His death took place at La Palisse (Allier), France, on the 4th inst. He was the eldest surviving son of the late William Miller Christy, of Woodbines, Kingston-on-Thames. His elder brother, William, had applied himself with ardour and success to the study of botany, and his collections were presented to the Botanical Society of Edinburgh, of which he was one of the originators. Mr. H. Christy gave up his earlier years to the conducting and improvement of his father's manufactory at Stockport, but retired from business some years since. He then undertook extensive voyages, for the purpose of studying the antiquarian remains of various districts, and the primitive customs of the more remote tribes of men; being anxious to observe those customs, and collect the arms, implements, and dresses of such tribes, before the influence of European civilization had obliterated their distinctive characteristics. He explored, in company with Mr. Edward Tylor, all parts of Mexico. The results of which journey are given in Mr. Tylor's "Anahuac" (Lond. 1861). He also visited the United States, Canada, and British Columbia. The East, Algeria, and the north of Africa, Spain, Italy, France, and the Scandinavian kingdoms, were also carefully explored by him. The fine museum of Northern antiquities and ethnography brought together at Copenhagen excited his warm interest, and he became a Foundation member of the Society of Northern Antiquaries. With the various scientific men with whom he became acquainted on his travels he established close and intimate relations, assisting them as far as he could in prosecuting their studies, and receiving them with hospitality when they visited England.

To many of the foreign collections, as well as to those of his own country, he was a liberal donor. To the College of Surgeons he gave, a short time since, a skeleton of a manatee, which he had obtained at a considerable expense, and which, from its exceptionally perfect state, has excited much interest. To the various departments of the British Museum he also contributed liberally. In 1852, he presented to that institution a series of votive figures of a somewhat Phœnician character, found in Cyprus, on the site of a temple of Venus; and he subsequently gave many relics illustrating the earlier periods of British history.

Of late years, Mr. Christy had turned his attention with great interest and zeal to the discoveries that have been made in many quarters, tending to prove the antiquity of man's presence on the earth. The excavations at Abbeville and Amiens were followed by him with special attention, and he decided on attacking new ground not hitherto explored. In conjunction, therefore, with his friend M. Lartet, the distinguished French Palæontologist, he explored,

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at a considerable sacrifice both of money and time, the caves and rock shelters that line the banks of the Vézère, in Dordogne. His investigations were carried on in the most liberal and disinterested manner, the choicest specimens being selected to form a principal collection to remain in France. From the duplicates some were taken for his own collection, and all the remainder were distributed as presents among public museums and private collections in all parts of Europe. The results of these discoveries were to be embodied in a work of considerable extent, for which a number of plates had been prepared, and we trust that M. Lartet may be able to carry it to completion.

A friend and fellow-worker, whose recent loss he felt very strongly, was the late Dr. Hugh Falconer; and he also lost an early and dear friend in Richard Cobden. When struck down by death, he was projecting fresh and very comprehensive schemes for the advancement of those branches of science which he cultivated. After visiting with a party of scientific friends the caves recently explored in Belgium and several other localities in order to procure materials for study, he went with M. and Mme. Lartet to La Palisse, where he was to explore a district of great archaeological promise, which he had long wished to examine. He was, however, suddenly attacked with inflammation of the lungs, and was carried off, after a very short illness, to the great grief of all those who had in any way become acquainted with him. He had only attained his fifty-sixth year when he died.

He was a Fellow of most of the metropolitan scientific societies, and had been also selected by the Council of the Royal Society as one of the fifteen candidates to be elected on the 1st of June, an honour he well merited.

Mr. Christy was very varied in his acquirements and tastes: his liberality was not confined to the advancement of science only. In the time of the Irish famine he personally examined into the state of the people, and distributed what he could to relieve them, nearly falling himself a victim to his exertions on that occasion. The distress caused in Denmark by the recent war also excited his sympathies, and he gave considerable sums to the relief of the wounded Danes. His loss will be greatly felt, not only among his own personal friends, but by many who, unacquainted with his person, only knew him through the assistance which he gave to them through others.

MISCELLANEA.

It may interest our readers to learn, as a set-off to the rather enthusiastic reports of the special correspondents of the daily papers, a few plain facts concerning the Dublin Exhibition. A trustworthy and sober-minded correspondent informs us that the ceremony, though not very imposing, was on the whole successful. The crowd was very large, and very loyal. The Prince of Wales went only half round the building at a rapid pace, the building itself being in a far more finished state than that at South Kensington on the opening day. The court which is in the best order is the French one; that which is in the greatest disorder is the Belgian. Most complete and attractive among the different objects of interest are the gallery of paintings and the collection of sculpture. As so much has been said in the House of Commons about the unpatriotic, if not inappropriate, character of the music, we subjoin a list of the pieces which were sung or performed: (1) The National Anthem, (2) "With one Consent let all the Earth," (3) Handel's Coronation Anthem, (4) Haydn's "The Heavens are telling," (5) Meyerbeer's Grand March from the "Prophet," (6) Mendelssohn's "Hymn of Praise," (7) Handel's Grand Hallelujah Chorus, (8) The National Anthem.

THE anniversary festival of the Royal Literary Fund was held on Wednesday last at the Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street, the Archbishop of York in the chair. The amount collected was upwards of 1,000*l.* In responding to the toast, "The Literature of England," with which Mr. Goschen had coupled his name, Dean Stanley dwelt upon two peculiarities of English literature—one that, while the literature of other countries, such as Italy and Spain, had flourished for a time and then come to an end, there had in England been several successive periods at which literature had reached a high pitch of excellence, and at all of which, though differing materially in each, it was intimately identified with the

life and character of the nation; and the other, that the literature of our time, although still maintaining the insular independence which marked our character, had become more cosmopolitan than it was formerly, and had in different branches been materially influenced by the literature of France and Germany. He concluded with a panegyric upon living historians, including Earl Stanhope, Mr. Merivale, the historian of Julius Caesar, who had found an Imperial rival who, with all the resources of his empire, would find it difficult to outshine his English antagonist, Mr. Froude, Mr. Carlyle, and the Dean of St. Paul's, whom he described as the patriarch of English literature, not only from his years, but because more than any other man he had combined the pursuit of different branches of literature, and had proved the possibility of combining the highest genius and the profoundest learning with the deepest love of truth and the highest regard for the best interests of the Church of England.

THE Rev. Charles Merivale has commenced his second course of Boyle Lectures at the Chapel Royal, Whitehall, on Sunday afternoons. These lectures will be continued during May and June, and the subject, the conversion of the northern nations to Christianity, takes up the conversion of the Roman Empire, which formed that of the former course.

THERE has recently been deposited in the Museum of the Shakespeare House, Crystal Palace, an original play purporting to have been written by Shakespeare, with marginal notes, additions, and corrections, in his own handwriting. There is, it is said, a variety of evidence to support its authority, but who is to prove the handwriting of a man of whom we possess but the signature? As in the case of the Ireland forgeries, the evidence of the genuineness of the play must be weighed solely by critics.

THE Trustees of the National Portrait Gallery have just issued their eighth annual report, from which it appears that the year's donations consist of two crayons, from life, by Mrs. Sharples, of General Washington and Dr. Priestley, presented by Mr. James Yates; James Harris, author of "Hermes," and father of the first Lord Malmesbury, painted by Romney after Reynolds, presented by the present Earl; James Watt, the Soho portrait, painted by C. de Breda, presented by Mr. M. P. W. Boulton; Professor Wilson, by Sir Watson Gordon, presented by the painter's brother, Mr. H. G. Watson, who has also presented portraits painted by his brother of the late Marquis of Dalhousie, and of De Quincey, the English opium-eater. Fifteen portraits and busts have been added to the collection by way of purchase. The number of visitors in 1864 was 14,885, and the opening of the Gallery at ten o'clock instead of twelve, has enabled 2,980 persons to visit the collection before the latter hour.

THE prize offered by Lord Palmerston, as Lord Rector of Glasgow University, for the best essay on "The Influence of Party on the Development of the British Constitution," has been gained by Mr. James Moffat, Calderbank, Airdrie. Mr. Moffat is also *facile princeps* in English language and literature, and philosophy, this year.

THE Prince of Wales will preside at the inauguration festival of the Central Hall of the Royal Dramatic College, on the 5th of June.

MR. CHARLES DICKENS presided at the anniversary dinner of the Newsvendors' Benevolent and Provident Institution, at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Tuesday last.

THE Tuesday evening meetings of the Working Men's Club and Institute Union, in the Lower Hall, Exeter Hall, Strand, commence on Tuesday next, with a lecture by Mr. Thomas Hughes—"The Labour Question in Connexion with Strikes and Co-operation." On the following Tuesdays the lectures will be delivered by the Rev. F. D. Maurice, Mr. J. M. Ludlow, Lord Lyttelton, Viscount Ingestre, and the Right Hon. W. F. Cowper. These meetings are intended to afford an opportunity to working men and persons of higher social position, or eminent in various ways, of friendly intercourse and interchange of opinions upon subjects of social and national interest.

FUN, we learn, is to make its appearance next week under a new management. The new series will be edited by Mr. Thomas Hood, and we may therefore hope for contributions from comic pens and pencils of no mean order.

M. STEFAN COLES describes in the last number of *Notes and Queries* a yet unpublished book of Voltaire's, at present in the collection of

the philosopher's books in the Imperial Hermitage of Catherine II. at St. Petersburg. The book, which seems to have been Voltaire's companion during a half century, consists of quotations in prose and verse, reflections, notes, bon-mots, and forms "Une espèce de poche où cet esprit prodigieux jetait pêle-mêle tout ce que la fantaisie du moment, le caprice, le besoin d'annoter et de se rappeler, lui faisait trouver. . . . A côté de 'Apulée rapporte,' etc., il y a 'Louis XIV. se levait à 8 heures et quart.' De petites rubriques—'Bons Mots,' 'Absurdités,' 'Jugements Salomoniques' (d'après lui, Voltaire), 'Contradictions,' etc.—sont entremêlés de 'Confucius et ses sentences,' 'Les Anglais c'est une grande baleine: et latum sub pectore possidet aequor,' 'Réflexions sur la Liberté' (pour la nier), 'Notes sur Descartes,' 'Le Roi de Prusse a écrit,' &c., 'Mémoires de Sully,' 'Anecdotes de Berlin,' 'Anecdotes sur la Comédie,' 'Chiffres statistiques,' etc."

IN 1857 Mr. Edmund Waterton, observing that in Rome the study of mediæval archæology was entirely neglected, proposed, with a few friends, to establish an association for the object of investigating the mediæval remains. The plan was to divide Rome into sections, and to leave no place unexplored, section by section, until the object had been attained. One section was to report on architecture, another on mediæval reliquaries and plate, and another on the mediæval remains in the different museums. The plan was never made public, but was confined to a select few. Unfortunately, the plan proposed was never realised, but still to Mr. Waterton is due the credit of having originated the Roman Archæological Institute, which now seems in a fair way of being carried out.

IN 1864 the Emperor of the French sent M. E. Miller, librarian to the Corps Législatif, on an exploring expedition into the East, to search the monastic libraries, particularly those of Mount Athos, for inedited ancient manuscripts. M. Miller has just furnished his report, and amongst the most interesting of his discoveries, he mentions a History of the events subsequent to the taking of Constantinople—the fall of Sinope, Trebizonde, &c., by Critobulus, an unpublished volume of the Byzantine Historians; a beautiful manuscript of the mathematical writings of Hero Alexandrinus; and a manuscript of the fifteenth century of the Geographia of Ptolemy, with maps, similar to those of the codex of Mount Athos. Most of the works in the libraries are of a religious nature—commentaries on the Bible, liturgies, psalters, fathers of the Church, &c. However, besides these, he enumerates an ecclesiastical history in ten books, five only of which are noticed by Photius; unpublished letters and opuscula of Photius; a prose paraphrase of the Haliectica of Oppian; Æsop's Fables, containing some still unpublished, the compiler appearing to have had a complete collection of those of Babrius at hand; a chrestomathia from Homer, Sophocles, and Euripides, of the tenth century, curious, as proving that at that date the number of plays of the two latter was the same as now; some inedited fragments of Ælian; fragments of ancient grammarians, particularly of Photius, Eustathius, and Didymus of Alexandria; an epitome of Zenodorus de Lingua Homericæ; a curious treatise in Greek by Suetonius, on nicknames and their origin; Aristophanes Byzantinus de Verbis Vitandis; and last, but by no means least in importance, a collection of grammatical observations, preserving, by way of citation, lost fragments of Æschylus, Sophocles, Euripides, Pindar, Alemanis, Alceus, Archilochus, Antimachus, and many others.

MESSRS. CHAPMAN AND HALL have just published the first and second volumes of Mr. T. A. Trollope's "History of the Commonwealth of Florence," embracing some two centuries from the death of Dante.

MESSRS. MURRAY AND CO., of Paternoster Row, have issued a "Book of Information for Railway Travellers and Railway Officials," by Mr. R. Bond, superintendent of one of the stations on the Great Western. Not only aiming at being useful, the compiler has rendered his pages amusing, by the introduction of anecdotes, and has added a glossary of "Railway" words and phrases. From the latter we learn that *cant* is used as equivalent to the word *raise*, and that *canting* means the operation of lifting the rails and their bearings into their proper position. To *cut off* is to detach an engine from its train, or vehicles from each other. *Journals* are the extreme parts of the axles. *Packers* have nothing to do with goods, but are the men employed in laying

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or repairing the permanent way; and many other old familiar sounds have quite a sense of their own when uttered by railway officials.

A live elephant is said to be no very desirable gift, but Exeter Hall seems to have hit upon one far less desirable. Some enthusiastic admirers of Lord Shaftesbury have given him, as a mark of esteem, a memoir of his own life on parchment. The walls about town have recently been asking, in large posters, "What will he do with it?" Can that bill have had any reference to this curious testimonial? It is not every man who would like to be the enforced custodian of a faithful biography of himself, to be handed down with the family archives to his latest posterity.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE STAGE AND ITS CRITICS.

To the Editor of THE READER.

Sir,—Having been for many years a constant observer of the English stage, I feel myself justified, nay, even called upon, to reply to the letter from your correspondent "Histriomastix," in your number for April 15.

It will appear from the remarks which I am about to make, that I utterly dispute many of the facts concerning the English stage laid down by your correspondent, and that I hold opinions diametrically opposed to those expressed by him. Nevertheless, there are certain points on which I must signify my concurrence with "Histriomastix." For instance, I agree with him, that our stage is not in that healthy condition in which we might wish to see it. The prevalence of sensation dramas, vulgar burlesques (intended to be witty), and coarse farces, sufficiently prove the vitiated taste of a certain portion of the public. Much is it to be desired, as your correspondent sensibly remarks, that the press should show more discrimination in its criticism of the drama than it has hitherto done; for if it commend the merits of deserving plays and intelligent actors, and decry the vitiating influence of sensation pieces and presuming strutters, it will then discharge one of the principal duties belonging to it—viz., to refine and correct the popular taste.

But, Sir, from this very circumstance, from this tainted condition of our stage, I deduce the lesson that it behoves us the more strongly to recognise true art whenever we find it. There are many men on the English stage who have done much to command admiration for their talent and their profession; but amongst these men there is not one whose claims approach those of Mr. Phelps. I have been an observer of this great actor for sixteen years, and never have I found him guilty of that exaggerated declamation, that misconceived exposition of character, with which your correspondent charges him. It is very unfortunate for the case of "Histriomastix," that he makes this charge immediately after declaring that he purposely avoids the theatre. This declaration is, again, a plain contradiction of his statement that he is "particularly fond of good acting, and has a high opinion of the value and charm of this wonderful art." Now, how is it possible to respect the opinions of a man who contradicts himself in this ridiculously overt manner? If he be "particularly fond of good acting," how comes it that he studiously avoids the place where the art is displayed? and, if he purposely debars himself from observing, how dares he presume to criticise the merits of the actor?

His exceptional opportunities of forming an opinion are totally insufficient for the maturing of any sound ideas. All this, however, is but a small step on the part of "Histriomastix," for he even goes so far as to affront the intelligence of your readers, by stating that he has "no sort of ill-will to Mr. Phelps, except that gentle antipathy one has to a man who has caused one three hours of intense agony." This statement is really too ridiculous. Pray, who compelled "Histriomastix" to sit out these three hours of agony? Surely not Mr. Phelps. He is far too largely gifted with common sense to wish to practise the idle occupation of "casting pearls before swine."

I am aware that, up to this point, I have but brought forward the statement of my own appreciation of Mr. Phelps' talents and services to our stage, in opposition to the views of your correspondent. The manner in which I propose to substantiate my opinions is to appeal to public estimation. I maintain, then, that the general opinion entertained of Mr. Phelps is that he is

an actor of first-class merit—immeasurably, in fact, the greatest actor of our day—and a great benefactor to his country. Were "Histriomastix" possessed of one grain of modesty, he would distrust his own judgment before stating opinions diametrically opposed to the general verdict of the public, than whom it is impossible to see that "Histriomastix" has any right to claim a superior degree of intelligence. Nevertheless, he presumes even further on the assumed simple-mindedness of your readers, for he even declares that Mr. Phelps (who has confined himself for the whole of his career—viz., for upwards of thirty years—to the performance of the noblest plays existing in our language, rendered, too, in a manner universally pronounced to be excellent) has vitiated, forsooth, the public taste! This is really too monstrous—too insulting to the intelligence of the reader. On a par with this is his previous declaration of astonishment that Mr. Phelps, as *Macbeth*, should brandish his sword to express courage, and shake his limbs in order to express alarm. Surely a little reflection might have taught even "Histriomastix" that these are the natural expressions of the feelings which *Macbeth* is supposed to experience. It is astonishing that men who, like "Histriomastix," set themselves up for judges, should live on and on without learning the simplest lessons of the book of nature.

Your correspondent has fallen into an error; his only consolation for which, should he ever recognize his position, is, that he is not without companions. It is the habit of this class to disparage the merit of the English stage as it now is, to the advantage of the English stage in former years and the foreign stages of the present day. If the French shine forth in comedy, have not we our comedies of equal merit, although not, perhaps, of equal number? Have not we our comedians, too—men who have attained the very highest walks of their part of the profession?

In fertility and witty character of farces we are outstripped by our lively neighbours; in this, however, being a lower school of the dramatic art, we need not grudge them their superiority, for where are the merits of the French or any stage as compared to our own in tragedy—the highest school of the drama? Where their plays of equal rank with the works of our immortal Shakespeare? Where their actors to compare with our Kembles, our Youngs, our Keans, our Macready's, our Phelps? Again, if the drama formerly commanded more attention than it now does, let "Histriomastix" remember that in those times there were scarcely any of the numerous counter-attractions which exist at the present day. Now it is the fashion to call the opera the perfection of an evening's enjoyment. Unfortunately, fashion finds too many unreflecting adherents, who follow her either for the hollow satisfaction of being considered members of her train, or because they are led away by that which appeals to the senses alone—forgetting that the drama, particularly in its higher grades, affords food for the mind likewise. It would require no long argument to yield the proof of this; yet I feel that I must reserve this matter for the subject of another letter, as I have already trespassed rather fully on your space.

In conclusion, however, let me pass remark on the concluding sentences of "Histriomastix," in which he recommends that the theatres be closed by act of Parliament, and that societies of amateurs be engaged to take the place of our professional actors. A suggestion so utterly childish, crude, and ridiculous, was perhaps never seen in the pages of THE READER before. Of course, as your correspondent "E. G. T." says, it is meant for jocularly; so, likewise, I will hope, for "Histriomastix's" sake, is the suggestion that Mr. Phelps should seek the office of toastmaster at the London Tavern. Really, however, these flows of forced wit are so remarkably poor, that I am at a loss to understand how even "Histriomastix" should fail to foresee the derision which they would bring on their author.

Sir, I have written somewhat at length in favour of the drama, and of its greatest living exponent, Mr. Phelps. It may be presumed that I am connected with him by ties of friendship, or otherwise. I beg leave, therefore, to state that I have not the honour of being acquainted with this great man, and that my connexion with the drama is simply that of an amateur. Whilst paying to the great actor the tribute due to his talent—whilst regarding him with feelings of gratitude for his public services in refining and exalting the public taste—and whilst admiring the noble profession which is

justly proud of possessing him at its head—I presume to no higher feeling than that by which I beg to subscribe myself, FAIRPLAY.

To the Editor of THE READER.

Sir,—I for one beg to tender my sincere thanks to "Histriomastix" and "An Old Playgoer," for their candid outspoken criticisms on the present race of actors. I have long observed with indignation the degraded tone of theatrical criticism. I have not attributed it to the venality of the critics, but to the intimacy which I am told exists between them and the whole tribe of actresses, actors, managers, and lessees. There is puffing enough, heaven knows, in the literary world; but in the world of art, more especially of dramatic art, puffing reigns supreme. The diversity of opinion on political, moral, and social questions, by dividing men into parties, more or less hostile, ensures an unsparing examination of the literary productions on each side. Moreover, in literature, the critics and the authors are not separate classes; most writers exercise both functions. It would be hopeless, therefore, to attempt to bring personal influence to bear on so numerous a class. Individuals might be bribed or pawed over, but to manipulate the whole literary body in that way is out of the question. Again, for some mysterious reason, an adverse criticism on a dramatic impersonation is more a personal matter than a severe review of a book. It is as difficult to tell a man he acts badly as to tell him he has an ugly face or ungainly manners. In no department of criticism, therefore, is it so necessary that the critic and the performer should be personally unacquainted. But how is this indispensable condition to be secured, while theatrical criticism is entirely in the hands of journalists? Actors are not dealt with in books or quarterlies or even monthlies. They have to look to a knot of men who, I dare say, might be numbered on one's fingers. I do not know who these men are. I do not know, nor have I the least curiosity to know, the name of one of them. But, of course, the actors are quite aware who does the theatrical criticism for *The Times*, or *The Telegraph*, or *The Saturday*, when the hands in the trade are so few, that critics in leading journals, I am told, are sometimes compelled to sit in judgment on their own pieces, poor fellows!

How THE READER has exercised its functions in this department, I am quite ignorant. I did not know that it dealt with such light topics, until my attention was drawn to the refreshing letter of "Histriomastix." If THE READER would lead the way in a conscientious and fearless treatment of the Stage, I am sure it would receive the hearty thanks of the educated public it addresses. Actors can only be impartially dealt with by critics who pay for their places, who never accept, much less ask for, an order either for themselves or their friends, and who scrupulously keep aloof from theatrical circles.

If our theatres were the habitual resort, as they once were, of men of taste and education, who could form an opinion for themselves, the wholesome custom would be renewed of letting a bad actor know, then and there, what you thought of him. But the herd who fill the London theatres are as devoid of taste and refinement as the performers. When I saw "Macbeth" lately at Drury Lane, I would have hissed Mr. Phelps when he came before the curtain, if he had not always led Miss Helen Faucit with him, who, though to my mind a disciple of a bad school, has undoubtedly both ability and refinement. When Mr. Creswick came forward for incense after murdering one of the finest scenes in Shakspeare, I did hiss with all my might; but I am afraid the sound did not reach his ears amidst the tumultuous applause of pit and gallery. The people near me looked as if they thought I was doing a most indecent thing, and evidently were of opinion that if I did not like Mr. Creswick, I ought to stay at home. I will undertake to say, however, that if everyone in the theatre who thought as I did had done as I did, Mr. Creswick would have wished that he had staid at home. But so stolid and tame are the present race of play-goers, that they take humbly whatever the manager sets before them, and hardly dare even to be apathetic, lest he should come before the curtain and accuse them of being in the pay of a rival establishment. The old actors, of course, are incorrigible. But if we all did our duty, we might, at least, make Mr. Phelps and Mr. Creswick negative examples to the younger men, who will otherwise take them as their models.—I am, &c.,

E. S. B.

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SCIENCE.

THE ROYAL SOCIETY SOIREE.

MAJOR-GENERAL SABINE'S second *soirée* was held on Saturday last, and the objects brought together for the inspection of his distinguished guests were more than usually numerous, and lacked none of their usual interest.

The astronomical and surveying instruments exhibited by Messrs. Troughton and Simms, and Messrs. Cooke, of York, claim our first attention. These are a portion of an extensive equipment ordered by Government for the Great Trigonometrical Survey of India, and are being constructed under the superintendence of Lieut.-Colonel A. Strange, F.R.S. Messrs. Troughton and Simms sent parts of a great theodolite, and of a zenith sector. The great theodolite is to be of the largest size hitherto employed, very few instruments of such dimensions having ever been made; perhaps the number is limited to six or seven. The horizontal circle is 3 feet in diameter, read by five micrometer microscopes; the vertical circle is 2 feet, read by six micrometer microscopes; the telescope has an aperture of $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches and a focal length of 36 inches, and is, perhaps, the most powerful ever applied to an instrument of this class. The instrument will differ in many of the arrangements from all its predecessors, the experience of the officers of the great Indian Survey accumulated during the past thirty years or more having been brought to bear upon it. Into all these points, highly interesting though they are, it is impossible here to enter. Two features, however, are of that fundamental character as to demand notice. One is, that portions formerly built up of many pieces fastened together with screws are here cast in one mass. This grand step in the art was, we believe, first insisted on and practically taken by Professor Airy, the Astronomer Royal. The second noticeable feature is that a new metal, aluminium bronze, has been employed for the most important parts of the instrument, which would otherwise have been made in gun-metal. Colonel Strange, in a paper read some time ago before the Royal Astronomical Society, pointed out the value of this alloy for such purposes. He had found, from careful experiments, that whilst its specific gravity is somewhat less than that of gun-metal, its rigidity is three times greater. These are qualities of the highest importance in instruments of such size, intended to be transported from station to station over the rugged and frequently roadless surface of the Indian peninsula, as they admit of the combination of comparative lightness with extraordinary strength. The stand of this instrument is also remarkable for the massive and stable character of the arrangements for accommodating it to the uneven ground on which it may have to be erected.

The zenith sector is intended, speaking in general terms, for the determination of latitude. But in that capacity we understand there is an intention of employing it on researches into the wide and interesting question of terrestrial attraction, on which combined geodesical and astronomical operations of the highest order alone can give us the light we so much covet. This zenith sector differs entirely from every instrument of the same kind as yet made. The sectors, composed of one admirable casting in gun-metal, of a form uniting to the utmost extent lightness with rigidity, are horizontal, and the circle of which they are segments is three feet in diameter. They are read by four micrometer microscopes, disposed convergently, somewhat as those of the great Greenwich Transit Circle, and illuminated, like them, by a single lamp.

For fuller details regarding this instrument we must refer the reader to Colonel Strange's paper on it, published in No. 9, Vol. xxiv., of *The Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*. Messrs. Troughton and Simms also exhibited two theodolites of smaller size, constructed for the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain. There is novelty in general form, and many improvements in details, and the larger one is altogether, both in soundness of design and beauty of workmanship, worthy of the eminent firm from which it emanates.

Messrs. Cooke, of York, exhibit the transverse axis of a transit instrument which they are constructing, under Colonel Strange's superintendence, for the Great Indian Survey. This instrument is to be used for determining longitude, in combination with the beautiful chronograph which attracted so much attention at General Sabine's first *soirée* of this season. The telescope is to have a clear aperture of five inches and a

focal length of five feet. Two such instruments are under construction. The axis alone was exhibited on the present occasion. It is cast hollow, and in a single piece, in aluminium bronze, and claims, with justice, we believe, to be the stiffest axis in existence. Great difficulties were at first experienced in casting this peculiar alloy in large and complex masses; but that they have yielded to the scientific efforts of Messrs. Cooke, was amply testified by this magnificent specimen of their skill.

The means of adjusting this instrument differ from those hitherto employed in many most essential respects. The endeavour has been to eliminate the straining effects of clamping screws, which suffer perpetual fluctuations under varying temperatures, and to employ, instead, the constant force of gravity, subject to conditions calculated to insure permanence in the optical axis or cardinal line of the telescope. The arrangement of the level (or, we should rather say, levels; for there are to be no less than four) is due to Mr. Cooke himself. His object has been so to apply them that they shall indicate and measure those unsymmetrical flexures to which it cannot be doubted a massive horizontal axis must necessarily be subject. Our readers will find more about this new transit in our report of the Astronomical Society next week.

Messrs. Cooke also showed two theodolites of 10 and $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches respectively. Based on the famous "Everest Theodolite," they displayed in their numerous improvements that fertility of resource, that mature reflection, and that exquisite manipulative skill, for which the Buckingham Works, York, are so celebrated. Amongst the numerous good points of these two instruments, we may mention the rejection of the old clam screw of both vertical and horizontal arc in favour of a modification of the continental "axle clamp." This change is excellent in principle, and valuable in point of convenience also.

We trust that the Government will not suffer the grand instruments with which they are now so munificently providing Indian men of science to leave Europe for that distant land without securing a full and well-illustrated description of them, such as Mr. Airy has drawn up of the Greenwich instruments, and such as the lamented Wilhelm Struve has given us of those erected at the central observatory of Pulkowa.

Mr. Wallace exhibited four cases, containing a selection of the birds collected by himself in New Guinea, and comprising, among other rarities, eight species of the Birds of Paradise, and a variety of gorgeous pigeons, parrots, flycatchers, and honey suckers. This great island is certainly one of the most remarkable ornithological regions on the earth. The largest and the smallest of the parrot tribe inhabit it, and were here exhibited—the great black cockatoo (*Microglossum goliath*), whose huge head and bill is a machine which seems specially constructed for extracting the kernel from the stony Kanary nuts, on which the bird often feeds; and the little green *Nasiterna pygmaea*, which has the spiny tail of a woodpecker. The great crowned pigeons, the largest and most remarkable of their tribe, are found only in this region; and about thirty genera of birds, including some of the most remarkable and the most splendid known, are entirely restricted to New Guinea and the adjacent smaller islands which make up the Papuan zoological province. Yet all these treasures are but gleanings from the outskirts of the country. Everything yet known from New Guinea comes from the small and almost detached northern peninsula and from the adjacent islands. The mainland of New Guinea itself, 800 miles long and 500 wide, is an absolute *terra incognita*, and it may safely be asserted that no region on the globe is so likely to furnish the explorer with strange and unexpected novelties, both in the animal and vegetable kingdoms. It is to be hoped that the naturalists of the present generation will not allow this last, and perhaps richest, of Nature's storehouses to be longer closed against them.

Mr. H. C. Sorby exhibited his new application of spectrum analysis to the microscope, by means of which he has shown that most minute traces of blood can be readily detected, when all other means would fail. The instrument was, however, specially arranged to illustrate the use of a double image prism of doubly refracting spar, along with an ordinary glass prism, so as to obtain in the field of the microscope two spectra polarized in opposite planes. We can thus see at a glance what rays pass with greatest facility through dichroic crystals, according to their position and the plane of polarization of the spectrum. He also showed, by means of a number of microscopes exhibited by Messrs. Smith,

Beck, and Beck, a series of sections of iron and steel, prepared by himself in various ways, illuminated by a parabolic reflector, or by a new method of direct surface illumination, admirably fitted for such objects, and for none else. A small silver mirror, inclined at about 50 degrees, is placed half-way over the object glass, in such a manner that bright polished portions of the objects appear bright, and dull parts appear dull or variously coloured; whereas by the oblique illumination of the parabolic reflector, bright parts appear black, and dull appear coloured or white. The illuminators were so contrived, that each kind of illumination could be obtained at pleasure.

On Mr. Browning's contributions we may remark that the spectroscope made for Mr. Gassiot to show the faint spectra of electrical stratifications, is a direct vision instrument on Hoffman's principle. The telescope has an object glass $1\frac{1}{3}$ aperture and 5 inches focal length, and gives a very short spectrum of great brilliancy. It is mounted on a heavy stand, and after being adjusted on a particular disc in a stratified discharge, the knife edges are shifted by a screw motion till they coincide with another stratification of a different character, without disturbing the position of the instrument. Mr. Browning is making an addition to it, by which the spectra of two stratifications will be shown in the field of view at the same time. The revolving spectroscope might be termed a "spectrum kaleidoscope." The gorgeously-coloured geometrical figures it produces are, however, obtained purely by the decomposition of light. The colours are, therefore, far more beautiful than those seen in an ordinary kaleidoscope. The dispersion of five or six prisms is necessary to procure brilliant effects.

Mr. W. A. Brown, of the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway, exhibited his Indicator for Railway Trains, the object of which is to record graphically the progress of a train, indicating the speed at all parts of its journey, and also the position and duration of its stoppages. A sheet of paper is caused to travel underneath a pencil at a uniform rate, by means of clockwork, at the same time that the pencil is moved across the paper at right angles, by motion derived from the wheels of the carriage. The line traced by the pencil is the resultant of these two motions, and the angle which it makes with the side of the paper varies according to the speed of the train. When the train is stationary the line is parallel to the side of the paper, and its length shows the duration of the stoppage. We remember that a somewhat similar machine was devised by Mr. Babbage some years ago, and was used by him during some experimental trips on the Great Western Railway. In this arrangement the clockwork was caused to make a certain number of dots in every second as the paper travelled under the pen. The distance of these dots apart gave the speed of the train. It will be observed that the stoppages were not indicated by this machine.

Messrs. Elliott Brothers exhibited a thermoelectric arrangement to show the development of heat in the growing of plants, in which the difference of heat in a living and a dead plant is shown by the deflection of a galvanometer. Also, Sprengel's air-pump, which produces a vacuum by the running of mercury. A description of this very ingenious instrument is given in the January number of this year of the *Journal of the Chemical Society*.

Messrs. Johnson, Matthey, and Co., contributed specimens of platinum, showing different stages and forms of preparation: a model ingot of platinum, from one casting, value 3,800*l.*; a large platinum boiler, used for concentration of sulphuric acid. They also showed specimens of wire and castings of magnesium, and specimens of gold, showing different stages and forms of preparation.

Mr. S. Bourne (of the Custom-house) exhibited models showing the use of a flexible diaphragm in preserving liquids in casks and other vessels from the injurious effects of exposure to the atmosphere.

The foreign secretary, Professor W. H. Miller, exhibited specimens of a heliotrope for flashing signals, of his own invention. Its flash may be seen by an observer at a distance of fifty miles. Another kind of signal apparatus was Commander Colomb's flashing night signals, a common oil lamp which any sailor can manage. The meeting room of the Society was ablaze with artificial lightning the whole evening, and an admirable opportunity was afforded of comparing one kind of light with the other, and all with that of magnesium.

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Captain Selwyn, R.N., and M. Fauchaux, exhibited the Le Paul telegraphic instrument in operation, which transmits thirty-five words a minute by a single wire, and prints them. It possesses the further advantage, that it can be worked by unskilled persons, who may even send a message in a language which they do not understand.

Messrs. C. and F. Darker exhibited various effects of polarization of light, with and without the microscope.

Art was by no means forgotten. Her Majesty, as usual, was among the contributors, and some admirable photographs were submitted for inspection by well-known names. Sculpture was well represented by Woolner's new medallion of the Poet Laureate, by Durham's bust of the late Duke of Newcastle, and portrait statue of a boy, and by Alexander Munro's busts of Henry Taylor and the late Duke of Newcastle. Mr. Davis, though absent in marble, was present in enamel; his exquisitely graceful contribution to this year's Exhibition having been admirably rendered.

We have by no means exhausted the long list of which we spoke, and would gladly, if space permitted, refer at length to the many applications of science exhibited by Ritchie, Siemens, Walker, and many others. Such meetings as these are as useful as they are charming. One is tempted to forget the trouble which devolves upon their projectors, and to wish they could come round oftener.

THE OPPOSITION OF SATURN.

SATURN, somewhat past opposition, is now a most beautiful object in the evening sky, and the truly wonderful definition of some of the nights lately has permitted the possessors of even small instruments to study the unparalleled mechanism of its rings to great advantage. In spite of its low altitude, the split in the outer ring and the crape ring are now not to be overlooked in a 6 in. refractor, the minor axis of its ring system being some $10''\cdot36$, while it readily permits a scrutiny of the rings, yet allows the satellites to be steadily watched. We append Mr. Lassell's welcome ephemeris of them for the present month; and remark, in conclusion, that Messrs. Longman are about to publish a monograph of this astronomical fossil, so to speak, which has yet to teach us much concerning star life. The book promises to possess much interest:—

Semi-minor Axis of apparent Orbit.

1865.	Rhea.	Dione.	Tethys.	Encel.	Mimas.	Ball.
May 1	0.97	0.69	0.54	0.44	0.34	0.39
31	0.93	0.66	0.52	0.42	0.33	0.39
June 30	0.93	0.66	0.52	0.42	0.33	0.39

Ephemeris for 12h. and 16h. Greenwich Sidereal Time.

May	Rhea.	Dione.	Tethys.	Encel.	Mimas.
13	p 1.56 2.33	f 1.46 2.23	p 1.91 2.16	f 0.78 1.64	f 1.29 0.97
14	p 3.77 3.47	f 0.80 p 0.25	f 2.06 2.11	p 1.66 0.81	f 1.36 0.57
15	f 0.19 1.07	p 2.53 1.93	p 2.15 1.98	p 0.32 1.42	f 1.26 0.09
16	f 3.83 3.86	f 2.52 2.77	f 2.16 1.80	f 1.75 1.21	f 0.98 p 0.40
17	f 1.21 0.33	p 0.80 1.73	p 2.12 1.55	p 0.16 f 1.08	f 0.58 p 0.84
18	p 3.40 3.73	p 1.48 0.50	f 1.99 1.26	p 1.71 1.51	f 0.10 p 1.17
19	p 2.44 1.69	f 2.74 2.38	p 1.82 0.93	f 0.63 p 0.67	p 0.39 1.34
20	f 2.51 3.12	p 2.14 2.64	f 1.58 0.57	f 1.53 1.69	p 0.83 1.34
21	f 3.36 2.82	f 0.07 1.10	p 1.29 0.19	p 1.05 f 0.20	p 1.16 1.15
22	p 1.29 2.10	p 2.04 1.19	f 0.96 p 0.20	p 1.24 1.75	p 1.34 0.81
23	p 3.83 3.58	p 2.76 2.67	p 0.60 f 0.58	f 1.40 0.28	p 1.34 0.37
24	p 0.10 f 3.79	f 1.60 2.32	f 0.22 p 0.94	f 0.85 1.67	p 1.16 f 0.13
25	f 0.79 3.87	f 0.65 p 0.40	f 0.17 1.27	p 1.63 0.74	p 0.83 f 0.60
26	f 1.49 0.63	p 2.74 2.70	p 0.54 1.56	p 0.40 1.47	p 0.38 f 1.00
27	p 3.24 3.65	f 2.59 2.77	f 0.90 1.80	f 1.75 1.15	f 0.11 1.27
28	p 2.66 1.95	p 0.95 1.85	p 1.23 1.98	p 0.08 1.14	f 0.59 1.36
29	f 2.28 2.94	p 1.34 0.34	f 1.53 2.11	p 1.72 1.47	f 0.99 1.28
30	f 3.50 3.02	f 2.71 2.29	p 1.78 2.16	f 0.56 p 0.73	f 1.26 1.03
31	p 1.00 1.84	p 2.23 2.69	f 1.97 2.15	f 1.56 1.67	f 1.36 0.64

SCIENTIFIC NOTES.

THE Council of the Royal Society have selected for election the following gentlemen as Fellows, out of fifty-three candidates: Mr. H. Christy, whom death has taken before he could add to his name this reward for his labours; the Hon. J. Cockle; the Rev. W. R. Dawes, who for upwards of thirty years has been one of the most successful observers of modern times, one of his *tours de force* being the discovery of the inner ring of Saturn; Mr. A. Geikie, a zealous worker on the geological survey; Mr. G. Gore, known for his electrical experiments; Mr. R. Grant, the director of Glasgow Observatory, and the author of the "History of Physical Astronomy"; Mr. G. R. Gray; Dr. Harley; Mr. W. Huggins, whose success in the application of the spectroscope to the examination of stars and nebulae has been rewarded by several important discoveries; Sir F. L. M'Clintock, a careful observer, as well as a renowned Arctic traveller; Dr. M'Donnell; Mr. W. R. Parker, a well-known zoologist; Mr. A. Tennyson, who is thus doubly crowned; Mr. Thwaites; and Lieut.-Colonel J. T. Walker, the director of the Great Indian Trigonometrical Survey.

MR. GLAISHER, F.R.S., is among the candidates for the post rendered vacant by the untimely death of Admiral Fitzroy, and one, we should imagine, which will render Mr. Milner Gibson's choice an easy one. Thirty-seven years of hard, incessant labour in a field of research where one must be content to wait so long to obtain commensurate results, have served, it would seem, but to supply Mr. Glaisher with renewed energy; and when most men would have retired discouraged, he opened out for himself, at risk of life and limb, a new line of research, of which it is impossible to overrate the importance. Greenwich will be sorry to lose Mr. Glaisher, but *en revanche*, all meteorological England will welcome him to Whitehall.

A COMET of considerable magnitude has been visible in the Southern Hemisphere during the early part of this year. The tail, though extending over 15° to 16° , was not so bright as that of Donati's comet. The following elements of its orbit have been computed by the Assistant Astronomer at Melbourne:—

T	=	January 14 ^d 228 G.M.T.
π	=	$16^\circ 45'$
δ	=	260 59
i	=	92 27
log q	=	8.5375

These differ somewhat from the elements calculated by Mr. Hind, and communicated by him to the *Bulletin* of the Paris Observatory. Mr. Hind makes the perihelion $143^\circ 38'$. The movement of the comet was retrograde.

THE President of the Institution of Civil Engineers will hold his annual *conversazione* on the 30th inst. The annual dinner of the institution took place last evening (Friday), at Willis's Rooms.

WE have received the following figures from an authentic source, as representing the present condition (as to number of specimens, &c.) of this important part of our national collection of Natural History: The entomological department contains 130 cabinets, 3,775 drawers, and 121 store boxes, the number of specimens being not less than 904,605. Can it be possible that these can be adequately attended to, named, and arranged, or even cared for at all, by the supervision of one assistant only in the entomological department of the Museum, however able and painstaking that gentleman may be? Mr. Gregory, in the late debate in the House of Commons on the state of the British Museum collections, complained of the "dark and stuffy" atmosphere of the insect room; but it is to be feared that there is some other ingredient in the atmosphere besides darkness and stuffiness, and that is neglect. The wealth in species of our national collection is unequalled in the museums of Europe, but it is rendered almost wholly unproductive of results to the benefit of science from the want of able assistance to place it in order.

MR. MADAN, of Queen's College, Oxford, writing to *The Philosophical Magazine* of this month, states that the reversal of the spectra of a metallic vapour can be easily seen by directing the spectroscope upon a fragment of sodium burning in oxygen. The comparatively cool sodium vapour absorbs the double line D, which with great distinctness appears dark upon a bright spectrum. The experiment can be continued as long as desired by a simple arrangement. A glass tube is passed through the cap of a deflagrating jar, and fixed directly over the

spoon containing the sodium. After the sodium has been ignited and introduced into the jar, the combustion is kept up by dropping fragments of the metal through the glass tube, at the same time sending a gentle stream of oxygen into the jar by means of a bent tube. Mr. Madan thinks the spectrum could be seen by projection, if the deflagrating jar were enclosed in a Duboscq's lantern. He also suggests the application of the same method of experiment to other volatile and oxidizable metals, such as zinc and magnesium.

NEWS has been received of the safe arrival at Pará of Mr. Edward Bartlett, who has gone out to continue the Natural History Exploration of the Amazons Valley, commencing at the point where Mr. Bates ceased his labours. The Brazilian authorities at Pará had shown him great attention, and allowed him to transfer all his baggage from the ship to the Up-river steamer without passing through the Custom-house. He writes that there are now three lines of steamers on the main Amazons, the first running 1,000 miles, from Pará to the Rio Negro; the second 900 miles, from the Rio Negro to the Peruvian frontier; and the third (a Peruvian line) continuing 700 miles further to Nauta, near the mouth of the Ucayali. Large vessels can, however, go with ease some 400 or 500 miles beyond this last point.

A VERY remarkable case of apoplexy, with paralysis of the right side, cured by application of heat and cold along the back, is detailed in last week's *Medical Times*. It reads like magic, in spite of the philosophic manner in which Dr. Chapman records the effect of his mode of treatment, which seems eminently successful.

DR. EMSMANN, in a paper in *Poggendorff's Annalen*, describes a new instrument for measuring distances, which differs from all previous arrangements by being independent of the measurement of angles, or of a base line. It consists simply in an application of the well-known principle that the image of an object is brought to a focus by a convex lens at a distance from the lens varying according to the remoteness of the object. The arrangement described by Dr. Emsmann consists of an object-glass of 30", and an eye-piece of 1" focal length, a screen of ground glass, upon which the image is received, being placed behind the eye-piece. The instrument, it will be seen, resembles in principle a photographic camera; the length, however, is about 5½ ft. In order to keep the indications within certain limits, the screen is placed behind the eye-piece, and the distance between the lenses is so arranged that a variation in the distance of 25 paces, at all ranges, requires at least a movement of one line in the screen. Trustworthy readings may be obtained up to 2,000 paces. Dr. Emsmann suggests that the instrument will be found useful in coast batteries, for measuring the distance of a vessel out at sea. In siege operations, the time generally admits of the measurement of a base line, the distance of the enemy's works being calculated by trigonometry. Should there be no practical difficulties in the way, it might probably replace with advantage the stadiometer, which depends on the principle of similar triangles, supplied by the War-office to Volunteer corps for use in judging distance drill.

VALYLENE is the name of a new hydro-carbon obtained by a French chemist, M. E. Reboul, in the following manner: Crude bromide of valerylene (a mixture of di and tetra-bromide) is mixed with an alcoholic solution of potash and subjected to fractional distillation. After two products were obtained, a third liquid distilled over, which was found to be the new compound, valylene, with a formula $C_{10}H_8$. Valylene is a light, mobile, hexatomic hydro-carbon, boiling at about $50^\circ C$, and possesses an odour of garlic and prussic acid. When treated with ammoniacal cuprous chloride, it forms a deep yellow compound, $C_{10}H_8Cu_2$, which decomposes with some violence when heated, leaving a carbonaceous residue.

THE results of Professor Reichardt's analyses of hailstones are published in No. 6 of the *Chemisches Centralblatt*. The specimens examined weighed from 1.86 to 4.65 grains, the specific gravity, which was ascertained by floating them in alcohol of known density, varying between 0.9285 for the transparent and 0.9234 for the opaque hailstones. Tested for nitrous acid with Schönbein's iodide of starch papers, a negative result was obtained, in spite of the great sensitiveness of the papers. 1,000,000 parts of hail were found to contain 3.247 of ammonia and 0.526 parts of nitric acid. This agrees tolerably well with Boussingault's analyses, which gave in 1,000 parts of rain-water 2.16 parts of ammonia

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and 0.55 nitric acid, and in hail 2.08 of the former to 0.83 of the latter.

MR. A. E. VERRILL thus writes to *Silliman's Journal*: "Starfishes may be dried, so as to retain their natural colours almost unimpaired, by immersing them in alcohol of moderate strength for about a minute, or just long enough to destroy the life and produce contraction of the tissues, and afterward drying them rapidly by artificial heat. The drying is best effected by placing them upon an open cloth stretched tightly upon a frame and supported a few feet above a stove. Care should be taken not to raise the heat too high, as the green shades change to red at a temperature near that of boiling water. By this process I have succeeded in preserving the delicate shades of red, purple and orange of the species found on the coast of New England, including *Solaster papposus*, *S. endeca*, *Cribella*, *Asteracanthion pallida*, *A. littoralis*, and various other species, specimens of which are in the Museum of Yale College. The same process is equally applicable to Echini and Crustacea.

DR. RAE, writing to the *Leeds Mercury* on Polar expeditions, shows that Captain Osborn's plan of reaching the North Pole by Smith's Sound is much more difficult than it appeared in his paper, read before the Royal Geographical Society. Supposing that a ship has got safely into winter quarters on the west side of Smith's Sound, in latitude 81° 40' north (which is as far north as she may reasonably expect to get), or 500 geographical miles from the Pole, the distance there and back will be 1,000 miles in a straight line; but as no party has been able to travel over ice in a straight line, in consequence of obstructions from rough ice, points of land, &c., an allowance of one mile in about five must be made, which would give a total of 1,200 miles to be walked over. No continuous journey of such a length has yet been accomplished under circumstances far more favourable than are likely to be obtained in a march to the Pole. The journey of all others that approaches nearest to this is that of the late Commander Meham, in 1854, one of the best, if not the best of Arctic travellers. The distance travelled was 1,157 miles; as thirty of these were indirectly made, the real distance, in comparing it with a journey to the Pole, should be 1,127. But in this wonderfully long journey Meham had many advantages. Besides knowing part of the route and finding provisions, none of his sledge parties required to haul a boat, which in an attempt to reach the Pole would be necessary, and if a boat has to be hauled, the labour and difficulty of making a 1,200 mile journey would be materially increased. Dr. Rae further states that apart from the fact that the distance is very much shorter, the sea voyage towards the Pole, passing eastward of Spitzbergen, presents few of the objections existing in connexion with the path by Smith's Sound. This route has never been attempted since steam power has been employed in Arctic navigation, in which it has very great advantages, as a steam vessel can bore its way among floe ice during calm weather (the best time for ice navigation), when a sailing vessel would be helpless. Many of the best authorities think that by this route the Pole might be reached without much risk or difficulty in one season, whereas by Osborn's plan it would require two winters and three summers to attain the same object. In going by Spitzbergen, new whaling grounds might be discovered, which would add fresh vigour to that once flourishing but now languishing branch of trade.

A NEW hygrometer, invented by MM. Engard and Philippon, was recently presented by M. Babinet to the Paris Academy of Sciences. The instrument is formed of a plate of ivory cut perpendicularly to the axis of the tooth and carved into a spiral. According to the humidity of the air the ivory dilates and contracts; a circular motion of the spiral is thus produced which is transmitted to a needle moving over a graduated disc. Though large, the hygrometer is very sensitive, and not easily put out of order.

F. STOLBA, in the March number of the *Journal für Praktische Chemie*, points out the occurrence of copper in beer, which he accounts for by supposing that the acid wort dissolves the oxide of copper formed on the surface of the brewing vessels. Cleanliness will do much to avoid this, but will not, he says, entirely prevent it. He adds a simple way of detecting the copper. A piece of filter paper, about three inches long, is to be dipped five or six times into the suspected beer, and dried between each operation. The paper is next to be burnt, the ashes mixed with half their bulk of sal-am-

moniac, and made into a thickish paste with water. If this be introduced into the outer margin of the flame of a spirit lamp, a very slight trace of copper will be rendered evident by the colour imparted to the flame.

M. DURUY, the Minister of Public Instruction, in a speech at the Sorbonne, a short time back, stated that during the last five months no less than 751 free courses of lectures had been delivered in France and Algeria. Of this number, 169 were under the auspices of learned societies. Amongst the lecturers were ten members of the Institute, sixty faculty professors, 184 professors at lyceums and colleges, thirty-three chief engineers and officials belonging to the Ministry of Agriculture and Public Works, nine inspectors and *employés* of the telegraphic department, and 104 physicians. The *Débats*, remarking upon these facts, says that the system of free lectures is now taking firm root in France, and that it can no longer be called "*une mode éphémère importée d'outre manche*."

A PAMPHLET published in Madras has been sent to us by Sir William Denison, K.C.B., in which he has made an "*attempt to approximate to the antiquity of man by induction from well-established facts*." The author endeavours to show, "by a simple appeal to recognized and established facts, that the probabilities are in favour of even a shorter period than that given in the margin of our Bibles as that of man's residence upon earth." The facts alluded to are extracted from statistical returns of births, marriages, and deaths, from which certain conclusions are drawn, some of which are rather puerile. These conclusions enable the author to discover that, if war and pestilence did not exist, the present population of the globe, estimated at one thousand millions, would have been produced in 750 years from the advent of the first pair. This being too short a time, the next process is to lengthen the period up to the Biblical chronology, in which operation it is found, by the way, that at the time of the flood, the inhabitants of the earth must have been too numerous to have been all destroyed by a local deluge. Finally, the conclusion of the whole matter is, "that the chronology which allows the shortest period between the deluge and the present day is most likely to be correct." The author's argument is not strengthened by speaking contemptuously of the conscientious labours of those who have devoted a large portion of their lives to the study of questions which he would at once settle by a registrar's return.

MR. G. F. ANSELL, of the Royal Mint, has proposed a novel application of Professor Graham's law of gas diffusion for the purpose of ascertaining and giving warning of the presence of accumulations of fire-damp in coal-mines. The apparatus described by Mr. Ansell is a glass U tube, having one aperture closed with a plate of graphite or equivalent porous diaphragm, and a few inches of mercury in the bend. If such an arrangement, filled in the first instance with air, be placed under the influence of an atmosphere containing five per cent., or even less, of light carburetted hydrogen or marsh gas, the presence of such admixture will be instantly detected by the passage of the gas through the interstices of the graphite, and the consequent expansion in volume of the gaseous contents of the tube; the column of mercury then rises in the opposite limb of the apparatus, and is made to record itself either by completing the circuit of a voltaic alarm, by deflecting a galvanometer needle, or lastly, by an adaptation of the simpler mechanism of a wheel barometer. We understand that the invention has been patented by Mr. Ansell, and, inasmuch as it gives great promise of successful employment, the apparatus must be deemed well worthy of immediate trial.

"COSMOS" states that, according to a German author, the number of useful plants has risen to about 12,000; but it must be remembered that these researches have been completed only in certain parts of the earth. There are no less than 2,500 known economic plants, among which are reckoned 1,100 edible fruits, berries, and seeds; 50 cereals; 40 uncultivated edible graminaceous seed; 23 of other families; 260 comestible rhizomes, roots, and tubers; 37 onions; 420 vegetables and salads; 40 palms; 32 varieties of arrowroot; 31 sugars; 40 saleps. Vinous drinks are obtained from 200 plants; aromatics, from 266. There are 50 substitutes for coffee; 129 for tea. Tannin is present in 140 plants; caoutchouc, in 96; gutta-percha, in 7; resin and balsamic gums, in 389; wax, in 10; grease and essential oils, in 330. 88 plants contain potash,

soda, and iodine; 650 contain dyes; 47 soap; 250 fibres which serve for weaving; 44 for paper making; 48 give materials for roofing; 100 are employed for hurdles and copes. In building, 740 are used; and there are 615 known poisonous plants. According to Endlicher, out of the 278 known natural families, 18 only seem up to the present time to be perfectly useless.

MR. J. H. PARKER, of Oxford, who is now in Rome, has been the means of raising into being the Archaeological Society of Rome, of which Lord Talbot has been elected president. Mr. Parker is giving, *more Anglicano*, out-door lectures upon Church Architecture and Ecclesiology amongst the mediæval churches of the grand old city. He promises us an "Archæological Handbook of Rome," a labour of love upon which he spares neither labour nor expense.

CLYDONICS is the name proposed by the President of the New York Polytechnic Association for those branches of science which treat of waves and undulations. A paper which he read at a recent meeting of the Association concludes with the following bit of transcendentalism: "As the unfathomed vaults of heaven recede before the sweep of a more powerful refractor, and nebulae resolved reveal nebulae beyond, so the most diminutive germ that springs from the Creator's touch, discloses through the lens of higher power new signs of more wonderful mechanism within. Each nucleus has its nuclei. Each entoblast is but the boundary of a microcosm; each particle, a galaxy of atoms revolving in the all-pervading æth. Thus, before every far-reaching human advance, circumference and centre will for ever retreat."

SCIENTIFIC CORRESPONDENCE.

ON THE SOUND EFFECT OF LARGE CHOIRS.

Algiers, April 29.

MY letter must come so late, that I should not have written if Mr. Broughton's argument had not been partly adopted in your number of the 15th.

If it is the opinion of good musical authority, it is probably in an important sense true, "that in large musical assemblies little is gained by increasing the number of the choir beyond a certain point." But I do not think Mr. Broughton has shown it or explained it "by reasoning from the analogous phenomena of light and heat."

The analogy has not even the approximate accuracy claimed for it by Mr. Broughton; but if the analogy were perfect, the analogous phenomena would prove, not that little is gained by increasing the choir, but that little is gained by sitting near it. Mr. Broughton passes from one of these conclusions to the other, as if they were only different ways of stating the same thing.

Undoubtedly, the wider the choir, the less does it matter how far off you are; because the wider the choir, the less does your distance from a large number of the performers vary with your distance from the front. It is impossible, therefore, to contest the conclusion in the last sentence of your note.

Undoubtedly, also, the larger the choir, the less it gains by any given increase; because no increase can be made but by the addition of remoter and therefore less audible performers. But it is difficult to understand why the efficiency should fall off so rapidly. We must not treat a body of performers fifteen wide by fourteen deep as if it approximated to an infinite surface.

Has it been sufficiently considered whether the fact, if it is a fact, can be caused by the circumstance that the voices of remoter performers must reach the audience later than the voices of nearer ones? They would be retarded at the rate of 1.25th of a second for forty-five feet of difference. If this rate is too small to produce a sensible effect, how is it that one hears so well close under the opposite wall of the room? It is not that the actual amount of sound is greater there, for the louder echo is not enough to make up for the fainter original sound. But the nearer one is to the wall, the more nearly is the echo simultaneous with the original sound. And more perfect simultaneity is greater intensity, because two sounds produce a double effect just so far as they are simultaneous.

Moreover, it would seem that the total retardation must be greater than would be immediately due to the difference of distance. Each performer obeys the conductor's wand. But from the experience of astronomical observations, it appears that different persons obey signals with various but regular degrees of punctuality. If those who act soonest could be put furthest

off, or the furthest off taught to act soonest, the fault would be corrected. I do not know whether this is at all done. Meanwhile, is there not a cause at work which constantly tends to produce the opposite effect? Each performer obeys the conductor's wand; but is it possible that he should not be concurrently influenced by the voices of his fellows? Now the further a performer is from what may be called the *sonorous centre* of the whole band, the later will the voices of his fellows reach him. It seems to follow, that the further he is from the centre, the later he will sing, and in a considerable proportion of cases, the further he is from the centre, the further he is from the audience.

You have no room for a formal demonstration that there is no close analogy between a radiating surface and a choir of performers, separated by intervals not very small indeed in comparison with the dimensions of the choir and the distance of the audience. But observe: a luminous plane is totally invisible to a spectator in its continuation. If Mr. Broughton's trigonometrical formula applied approximately to our choir, it would follow that the voices of a number of people of uniform stature on level ground would be nearly inaudible to a person of the same stature on the same level. C. J. M.

REPORTS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.

ROYAL SOCIETY. — April 6. — Major-General Sabine, President, in the chair.

The following communications were read:—

1. "Report on the New Unit of Electrical Resistance Proposed and Issued by the Committee on Electrical Standards Appointed in 1861 by the British Association." By Mr. Fleming Jenkin, communicated by Professor A. W. Williamson.

2. "Researches on the Hydrocarbons of the Series $C_n H_{2n+2}$." By Mr. C. Schorlemmer, Assistant in the Laboratory of Owen's College, Manchester. Communicated by Prof. H. E. Roscoe, F.R.S.

The author had found that when equal volumes of chlorine and of methyl, and equal volumes of chlorine and hydride of ethyl, are exposed to the diffused daylight, the principal product of the reaction consists in both cases of the compound $C_2 H_5 Cl$, a body having the composition and characteristic properties of chloride of ethyl, and as neither in the physical nor in the chemical properties of the two hydrocarbons a difference is known to exist, he concluded that methyl and hydride of ethyl are identical. This communication contained the results of researches carried out for the purpose of deciding whether there is only one series of hydrocarbons, $C_n H_{2n+2}$, or whether two series exist which exhibit the characters of physical isomerism: the hydrocarbons ethyl-amyl and hydride of heptyl, and of amyl and hydride of decetyl, being selected.

From his experiments the author concluded that no difference exists in the chemical behaviour of the radicals and of the hydrides, and hence it appeared highly probable that only one series of hydrocarbons of the formula $C_n H_{2n+2}$ exists. The author is still pursuing these researches, and hopes soon to obtain more definite results.

3. "Introductory Memoir on Plane Stigmatics." By Mr. A. J. Ellis, F.R.S.

ROYAL INSTITUTION.—General Monthly Meeting, May 8.—Sir Henry Holland, Bart, M.D., D.C.L., F.R.S., President, in the chair. The president appointed the following vice-presidents for the ensuing year: Lord Wensleydale, Earl Percy, Sir Roderick I. Murchison, and Mr. W. Pole. Messrs. C. Butler, W. Henty, W. Morrison, M.P., G. B. Rennie, A. C. Tanqueray, and P. D. Tuckett, were elected members.

The following professors were re-elected: W. T. Brande, D.C.L., F.R.S., Hon. Professor of Chemistry; J. Tyndall, Ph.D., F.R.S., Professor of Natural Philosophy; E. Frankland, Ph.D., F.R.S., Professor of Chemistry.

The special thanks of the members were returned for the following additions to "The Donation Fund for the Promotion of Experimental Researches": Mr. J. C. Moore (second annual donation), 10*l*.; Mr. H. Mackenzie (second donation), 20*l*.

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—April 25.—Dr. J. E. Gray, F.R.S., in the chair.

A letter was read from Professor William Nation, of Lima, Peru, in reference to certain specimens of reptiles intended to be transmitted to the Society's menagerie. Mr. Sclater made some remarks on a collection of birds' skins

made in the vicinity of Vera Cruz, Mexico, by the Society's corresponding member, Monsieur A. Boucard. A letter was read from Mr. W. Alford Lloyd, describing the new Aquarium-house lately erected in the Zoological Society's Gardens at Hamburg, and the improved system of management of Aquaria pursued in that establishment. Two communications were read from Dr. W. Peters, foreign member. The first of these related to the species of mammals collected by Dr. Welwitsch during his recent travels in Angola. The second consisted of some notes on the Indian rodent described by Mr. Blyth as *Platacanthomys lasiurus*, which Dr. Peters was of opinion had nothing to do with the dormice (Myoxinae), but appertained strictly to the Murine family, being nearly allied in many respects to *Phlemys* and *Meriones*. A communication was read from Dr. J. V. Barboza, foreign member, containing notes on some rare and little-known mammals from Angola, of which specimens had lately been received by the National Museum of Lisbon. A letter was read from Mr. E. L. Layard, of Cape Town, corresponding member, describing a new species of zebra, discovered by Mr. James Chapman, in the interior of South-Western Africa, about 230 miles from Walwich Bay, which Mr. Layard proposed to call *Equus Chapmani*. Dr. J. E. Gray made some further observations on the whale which he had lately proposed to name *Macleayius Australiensis*. A paper was read by Messrs. A. R. Wallace and H. Adams on the land shells collected by Mr. Wallace in the Malay Archipelago. This list, which enumerated 125 species, fifty of which had been obtained by Mr. Wallace, had been drawn up principally with a view of recording the exact localities of each species, and thus furnishing materials towards a more accurate knowledge of their geographical distribution.

CHEMICAL SOCIETY.—May 4.—Dr. W. A. Miller, President, in the chair. Mr. Arthur S. Hobson was formally admitted, and Dr. Holzmann, Mr. Joseph Sugden, jun., and Mr. T. N. Kirkham, were balloted for, and unanimously elected fellows of the society.

A paper "On the Phosphide of Magnesium," by Mr. T. P. Blunt, was read by the Secretary. The author prepared this body by passing the vapour of phosphorus over heated magnesium filings, when the metal becomes incandescent, and is converted into a substance having the appearance of lamp-black, and very stable in its chemical nature. Its formula is $Mg_3 P$. A communication entitled "On the Periodides of some of the Organic Bases," by Mr. W. A. Tilden, was also read. The author's experiments established the existence of several new members of a group of crystalline bodies, remarkable for their optical properties, one of the best known examples of which is the iodo-sulphate of quinine, or artificial tourmaline, of Dr. Herepath. The action of iodine upon caffeine and its ethyl and methyl substitution products, and the iodo-strychnine of Pelletier, have been investigated by Mr. Tilden.

ETHNOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—April 25.—Mr. J. Crawford, F.R.S., V.P., in the chair.

The first paper read was:—

"On the Domestication of Certain Animals in England between the 7th and 11th Centuries."

There are in animals three recognized and distinct degrees of capacity for domestication. The first class are animals of a "domesticated nature," being those which, when once thoroughly domesticated, continue habitually with man, will not willingly leave him, and if they do so accidentally, will probably return; among these are cows, horses, sheep and poultry. The second are animals capable of only an *imperfect* domestication. They breed freely in the home-stead, and are useful to man; but if they escape from him, will *probably not return*; among these are tamed deer, hawks, pheasants, and partridges bred at home, and gold and silver fish in private waters. A third class, which are sometimes called domesticated, such as hares, canaries, rabbits, monkeys, parrots, &c., are altogether incapable of domestication; for whatever an eccentric member of the species might do, they will, *as a rule*, escape to savage life on the first opportunity, unless coerced by climate or starvation. The author ventured to repeat these very well-known distinctions; because, in ignorance of them, our ancestors made a series of experiments in domestication, which were either failures or but partially successful, and also because in those which succeeded as species were always semi-domesticated (sometimes for centuries) before they were completely so.

The hog was the earliest animal domesticated. He became the great staple of national food, and one of the most important elements of national wealth. Swine were bequeathed expressly by wills, when other animals were not, were paid as coin to ministers for masses for the dead, and often constituted the marriage portion of the noblest ladies. An increased value was given to swine by being home bred, as appears by the compensation to be paid for stealing them. A pig reared at home was worth 15*d*., but the same pig when turned into the woods to feed, might be stolen for 6*d*.. Although a large proportion of swine were at the time of Alfred home-bred, it is probable that a larger number were not so, but roamed the boundary forests of districts or shires. These animals were a constant cause of bloodshed, for, being but semi-domesticated, they were not absolutely private property, but only so in a limited sense. The clearance of the forests, and the formation of hunting parks, which took place in the time of Canute, tended to increase domestication.

The Anglo-Saxons were later than the Welsh in training horses. They had no saddle horses till the middle of the seventh century, when the foreign bishops introduced the use of palfreys. But this example was very slowly followed. In the ninth century Alfred the Great tells us that no man ever rode on horseback for pleasure, though some did so for exercise or expedition. Persons entitled to fines or rent payable in produce refused to accept horses in payment, and the clergy, who tithed everything domesticated, did not tithe them. They were sometimes, but not generally, eaten; but a considerable export trade was done in them.

The domestication of bees was early attempted. The clergy earnestly encouraged it, teaching that bees "had been sent from heaven, because the mass of God could not be celebrated without wax." They probably desired an increase of produce from economic reasons. About the middle of the tenth century slaves, whose duty it was exclusively to attend to bees, and were called beeshers, were ordinarily attached to wealthy establishments; and from the position of slaves they soon became servile tenants, whom their lords provided with a stock of bees, for which they paid a fixed amount of produce for life, the swarms continuing the property of the lord. We also find about this time the Anglo-Saxon word bee cest (bee chest) and the Latin *alvearia* (beehives) usually substituted for "rusca," from which it may be inferred that these rough constructions were superseded by regular hives. Not long afterwards the clergy induced Edward the Confessor to tithe beehives—an evidence that they had become numerous and valuable, which is confirmed by "Domesday Book," where they are repeatedly mentioned.

The first mention of hawks occurs in documents of the eighth century, when two falcons were sent by Boniface, Bishop of Mons, to Ethelbert, King of Mercia, which induced a Kentish king to apply to the same prelate for a similar present, and, in doing so, he stated that he could not obtain hawks of the quality he required in his own kingdom. From about this time the kings and nobles laboured to domesticate hawks, though at first in very limited numbers, and with no great skill. They formed, nevertheless, a regular part of their establishment. In the tenth century the custom of more completely training them was introduced; and many persons kept them through the summer, that they might be ready for the winter.

It would be easy to add much more on these subjects, for the laws and charters contain an immense amount of interesting information as to oxen, sheep, dogs, cats, goats, poultry, and other animals, all the evidence of which the author thinks points to the conclusion that, in the tenth century, the more important animals made progress towards, or arrived at, perfect domestication, while attempts which had, up to that time, proved futile, were generally abandoned.

In the discussion Mr. Crawford said he had been particularly struck with what Mr. Thrupp had said in respect to the domestication of the hog. It was, in its domesticated state, an animal peculiar to Europe and the countries of the West of Asia, but in other parts of Asia, up to China, it was abominated. In those countries, in consequence of its omnivorous habits and its bad education, it was filthy in the extreme. The Chinese take great care of their hogs, and had a good breed.

Mr. Vámbéry spoke on the domestication of some animals in certain parts of Asia, particularly of hawks and horses; the breeding of horses in the central parts being most perfect.

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He also commented on the scarcity or absence of bees in certain portions of that continent.

Mr. Francis Galton took the opportunity of adding a few words of comment on his own paper "On the Domestication of Animals," read before the Society some time since. In order to satisfy the conditions requisite for their domestication, it was then considered necessary that the animals should be gregarious, as being thus much easier to tend. He would now remark that animals which are gregarious are slavish. No animal can be gregarious without abdicating its freedom.

Various facts relating to the former existence and states of condition of the beaver and the horse under the Anglo-Saxons, were mentioned by Mr. Nash, Mr. Wright, Mr. Galton, and Mr. Prideaux.

Mr. Mackie thought the evidence of the first domestication of the hog in Britain exceedingly suggestive. As with the remains of primitive man in caverns, bones and tusks of boar were of common occurrence, it would be very interesting if any evidence could be obtained to show that the hog was indeed the first animal domesticated by the human race.

2. "On the Peculiarities of National Pronunciation as a Means of Tracing the Origin and History of Nations." By the Rev. James Brodie.

Mr. Crawford and others briefly noticed various points of interest in this paper, but the lateness of the hour restricted the discussion.

ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—May 2.—Ordinary Meeting.—Dr. Hunt, President, in the chair.—The following members were elected: Messrs. Sampson Roche, W. M. Ord, H. Duckworth, H. K. Twyford; Rev. W. Boyce, J. Wilson, Captain W. D. Carey, R.A., Rev. W. Arthur, Dr. Hyacinthe Rónay; G. W. Smith, Samuel Higgs, George Hill, D. G. F. Macdonald, George C. Joud. Honorary Members: Professor Velasco, Madrid; Professor Max Müller, Oxford; Professor Nilsson, Stockholm; W. E. G. Squier, New York. Local Secretary, Mr. E. H. Harbor, Amoy, China.

The discussion on Mr. H. Burnard Owen's paper, on "Missionary Successes and Negro Converts," was continued.

ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—May 1.—Mr. H. T. Stainton, V.-P., in the chair.

Messrs. F. D. Godman, J. T. D. Llewellyn, and W. H. Groser were elected members; and Messrs. C. B. Clarke, E. Clift, and W. Farren, annual subscribers.

Mr. S. Stevens exhibited a Himalayan *Cassida*, found alive in London, near a newly-opened case of orchids, but which had unfortunately died a few hours before the meeting. Mr. Stainton exhibited a nest of hairless larvæ of some Lepidopterous insect, found near Marlborough, suspended by silken strings from a beech tree. Mr. F. Smith read a letter from Dr. T. C. Jerdon, from Lahore, in which the writer showed that *Typhlopone* was undoubtedly the worker form of *Dorylus*. The Rev. Hamlet Clark exhibited a collection of Phytophagous beetles, captured by Mr. F. Du Boulay in the Champion Bay district, West Australia; amongst the many novelties was a saltatorial *Eumolpid*, which owed its power of leaping, not to the posterior femora, but to the medial, which were robust, incrassate, sufficiently elongate, and with strong and curved tibiae; he proposed to describe it under the name of *Thaumastomerus viridis*.

Interesting discussions ensued on the intermittency or simultaneous flashing of the light of fireflies (see a review of Cameron's recent work on Malayan India, in THE READER of 1st April last), on the extirpation of woodlice from gardens, and on the numerous insects which frequent the galls of various species of willow (see a paper by Mr. Walsh on the "Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Philadelphia, for 1864").

Mr. H. W. Bates read a paper "On New Species of *Agna* from the Collection of Mr. W. Wilson Saunders." Mr. F. Smith read "Descriptions of some Species of Hymenopterous Insects belonging to the Families *Thynnidae*, *Masariidae*, and *Apidae*." The Rev. H. Clark read "Descriptions of New *Phytophaga* from West Australia."

SYRO-EGYPTIAN SOCIETY.—May 9.—Dr. Lee, F.R.S., President, in the chair. Mr. Sharpe read a paper "On the Date of the Book of Revelations." His aim was to show that it was written in the reign of Vespasian; that Vespasian was the Beast, Titus the second Beast, and Apollonius of Tyara the false prophet; of the seven kings, Nero was the fifth that had fallen,

and was to come to life again as the eighth. Vespasian was the sixth or living king, because the writer of the book omitted all notice of Gelba, Otho, and Vitellius, treating Vespasian as the successor of Nero, as in fact he was in Judea, where the then short reigns of those emperors might easily be overlooked.

ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.—May 2.—Scientific Meeting.—The Rev. M. J. Berkeley spoke on certain species of *Clematis*, &c., and Mr. Bateman on Orchids and *Vaccinae*.

SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION.—May 3.—The Very Rev. the Dean of Canterbury in the chair.

The paper read was on "The Application of Funds to the Education of Girls." By the Rev. E. H. Plumptre, Dean of Queen's College.

Mr. Plumptre observed that it appeared from the paper read that a very large proportion of the funds now engrossed by boys were originally intended for the education of both sexes, and suggested that it might be found expedient to appoint a permanent commission, for the purpose of dealing with each case separately in connexion with local claims. He believed that one of the best possible uses to which funds could be devoted, would be the foundation of exhibitions from local schools to the Ladies' Colleges. Mr. Plumptre gave some account of the scholarships attached to Queen's College, and stated that the system worked admirably, and might be extended with great advantage. Professor Huxley inquired whether the existing endowments were more than sufficient for the education of boys. The Rev. J. L. Davis replied that questions as to the use of funds might be taken in a wide sense, and would apply to money raised specially for the education of girls as well as to existing charities. He was inclined to think that the education of boys and girls together up to a certain age might be desirable, and would be disposed to defer action with reference to girls until opinion should be more settled on this and other points. Mr. Hare said that if Mr. Huxley meant to ask whether there were endowments sufficient for the whole education of boys of the middle-class, without any contribution from their parents, he would answer that there were not, and that he should think it a very bad thing if there were. He believed that there were considerable funds which might be advantageously devoted to the education of girls, and called attention to the case of the Blue-coat School, with property amounting to 50,000*l.* a-year, of which not more than 5,000*l.* was intended exclusively for boys, but which now educates 1,100 boys and only about 25 girls. Mr. Hastings thought it desirable to give endowments, in the shape of stipends, to schoolmistresses, thus making them independent of ignorant parents, and gave an account of the Ladies' College at Cheltenham, in which he had found the education to be of a very high character. He believed this was greatly owing to the fact that the school was governed by an independent council, who were able to support the principal in carrying out a system of thorough education. Mr. Tuffnell testified to the defective education of governesses. He said that as an inspector of workhouse schools, he had often to examine young women offering themselves for the office of schoolmistresses, who had been governesses in families of good position. While professing to know a little music, a little French, &c., he had found them profoundly ignorant of elementary subjects. After some observations from Mr. Fearn, Mr. Westlake, and Mr. Clay, the Dean of Canterbury remarked that in reference to the demands of parents, *solvitur ambulando* must be our motto. If the standard of education was raised, parents would gradually learn to appreciate it. The Dean also called attention to a point which he thought had been passed over by previous speakers—namely, the beneficial manner in which improvement in the education of girls would react upon that of boys.

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.—MAY 2.—Mr. J. Fowler, V.-P., in the chair.

The paper read was "On Uniform Stress in Girder Work; Illustrated by Reference to Two Bridges Recently Built," by Mr. Callcott Reilly, Assoc. Inst. C.E.

In summing up the conclusions sought to be established, it was submitted that:—

First—A comparatively small deviation of the centre of stress, upon the cross section of any bar, of any piece of framework, from the centre of gravity of that section, produced, within the

limits of elasticity, a very great inequality, in the distribution of the stress upon that section.

Secondly—If it were conceded that the real strength of every structure was inversely proportional to the greatest strain suffered by its weakest member, then the existence of this unequal distribution of the stress must be detrimental to the strength of any structure in which it existed, and which had been designed on the supposition that the mean intensity of the stress upon any bar was necessarily a correct measure of its strength.

Thirdly—There was no practical or theoretical difficulty in designing a truss or girder in which the stress upon every cross section, of all the important members, at all events, should be absolutely uniform.

Fourthly—The condition of uniform stress was perfectly consistent with the utmost economy of material in the structure to which it was applied.

At the monthly ballot, on May 2, the following candidates were elected: The Duke of Sutherland, as an honorary member; Messrs. G. Black, J. Calvert, J. Coghlan, F. Mackison, and P. W. Wall, as members; Messrs. P. Adie, T. Alexander, J. B. Batten, A. Clayton, A. Folkard, W. Fox, T. A. Greenhill, W. Hunter, J. H. Johnson, B. Latham, J. Morgan, J. Napier, and C. Rolfe, as associates.

MANCHESTER.

LITERARY AND PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.—April 4.—Dr. R. Angus Smith, F.R.S., President, in the chair.

A communication was read, entitled "An Instance of the Injurious Action of Alkalies on Cotton Fibre," by Messrs. H. Caro and W. Dancer.

A remarkable instance of the deleterious action of alkali on cotton fibre had lately come under the authors' notice, when examining some indigo prints, which had been stiffened or finished with silicate of soda, and kept in bales for about two years. The strength of the fibre of the greater part of these goods had decreased to about one-third of the strength of some pieces which had been packed in the same bales, and which differed in no other respect from the others except in their having been finished with starch. Observations showed that the injury was due to the long continued action of free or carbonated alkali upon the cotton fibre.

A paper, entitled "Remarks on the Microscopical Appearances of Cotton Fibre during Dissolution in the Ammoniacal Solution of Copper," was read by Mr. J. B. Dancer. The author finds that many specimens of cotton show transverse markings at tolerably regular intervals. These have been stated to be evidences of a spiral structure in cotton fibre, but with high magnifying power the author found them to be furrows in the external membrane, which membrane he believed to be distinct from the true cell wall. When an ammoniacal solution of copper was brought into contact with cotton placed in the field of view under a microscope, a rapid rotation or twisting of the fibres was seen to take place. The author then suggested an explanation of this phenomenon, which he based on the fact that the solvent permeated some portions of the external membrane more easily than others; expanding the cellulose matter, it burst the external membrane, and twisted the cotton in the direction of its length.

Mr. Dancer also read a paper "On Pseudoscopic Vision through Prisms." The author found that if a prism be interposed between one eye and a flat object, when the thin edge of the prism was turned inwards to the nose, the flat surface appeared concave; when, on the contrary, the base or thick edge was turned towards the nose, the surface appeared convex. The explanation of these phenomena he based upon the supposition that in binocular vision the distance of an object is estimated by the degree of convergence of the optic axes. Thus, when the base of the prism was towards the nose the flat surface became convex, because the optic axes crossed in front of the real surface, and the imagination raised the object to that point.

Dr. Angus Smith explained a mode of analysis which he has called *minimetric*. It was based mainly on the fact that the memory can retain with great exactness the character of a precipitate of a given degree of translucency. For carbonic acid the author found a precipitate of carbonate of baryta was caused in baryta by .2515 cub. c. of carbonic acid, or nearly three times that amount in lime water. If the carbonic acid in air was sought, the air was

made to act on the baryta until the precipitate was obtained. In other words, the *smallest measure* of air was used which will produce the precipitate. The plan may be used for hydrochloric acid, sulphuric and sulphurous acid, sulphuretted hydrogen, &c. The author showed a simple method of using this mode of analysis. It consisted in an elastic ball with two valves; when pressed the air was driven out, and when expanding the air was drawn through the liquid: the air and liquid were then shaken together. This was repeated until the precipitate was obtained. Experiments made with this apparatus showed it to be extremely delicate. The carbonic acid in the air of a room could be estimated in a few minutes. The author then gave a description of the application of his method to the quantitative determination of carbonic acid in houses and workshops, and stated that by this simple means the greatest refinement could be attained.

MEETINGS NEXT WEEK.

- MONDAY, MAY 15.
ASIATIC, at 3.—5 New Burlington Street.
BRITISH ARCHITECTS, at 8.—9 Conduit Street, Hanover Square.
- TUESDAY, MAY 16.
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY, at 3.—South Kensington. Show of new and rare plants. Scientific Meeting, and Election of Fellows.
ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 4.—Albemarle Street. "On Organic Chemistry:" Professor Frankland.
SOCIETY OF ARTS, at 8.—John Street, Adelphi. "On Some of the Most Important Discoveries made within the last Two Years:" Dr. F. C. Calvert. (Cantor Lecture.)
ANTHROPOLOGICAL, at 8.—4 St. Martin's Place, Trafalgar Square. "On Missionary Work in Africa:" the Bishop of Natal.
PATHOLOGICAL, at 8.—53 Berners Street, Oxford Street.
STATISTICAL, at 8.—12 St. James's Square. "On the Variation of Prices and the Value of the Currency since 1782:" Professor W. S. Jevons.
CIVIL ENGINEERS, at 8.—25 Great George Street, Westminster.
- WEDNESDAY, MAY 17.
ROYAL SOCIETY OF LITERATURE, at 4.30.—4 St. Martin's Place.
PHARMACEUTICAL, at 8.—17 Bloomsbury Square.—Anniversary.
SOCIETY OF ARTS, at 8.—John Street, Adelphi. "On the Manufacture of Encaustic Tiles and Ceramic Ornamentation by Machinery:" Mr. Z. Colburn.
- THURSDAY, MAY 18.
ZOOLOGICAL, at 4.—11 Hanover Square.
ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 4.—Albemarle Street. "On Organic Chemistry:" Professor Frankland.
NUMISMATIC, at 7.—13 Gate Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields.
CHEMICAL, at 8.—Burlington House.
ANTIQUARIES, at 8.—Somerset House.
ROYAL, at 8.30.—Burlington House.
- FRIDAY, MAY 19.
PHILOLOGICAL, at 8.—Somerset House. Anniversary. Professor Aubrecht.
ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 8.—Albemarle Street. "On Stella Physics and Chemistry:" Mr. Huggins.
- SATURDAY, MAY 20.
ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 4.—Albemarle Street. "On Meteorology:" Mr. A. S. Herschel.

ART.

EXHIBITION OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY.

IT may be fairly stated that the present Exhibition is, upon the whole, the best that any of us can remember. The more complete education of the present generation of painters is now plainly visible, and we have no longer to deal with a mass of commonplace works contrasted with a few noble pictures, but to examine attentively the performances of painters who are silently but rapidly forming a larger and more consistent school. Even those painters who, like Armitage, Leighton, and Crowe, have been educated abroad, have known how to steer clear of the peculiarities of foreign schools, and to maintain an independence and originality full of promise for the vigour and stability of our own. They have garnered the knowledge acquired by a more severe practice, and apply it with the force of their English intellects to the formation of a style that cannot be confounded with any of those now prevalent on the Continent, while at the same time, with a few striking exceptions, we detect no morbid taste for that offensive species of originality which is based on vanity, and displays itself in the exhibition of eccentricities and peculiarities.

Surrounded by so many works of excellence, contending against an amount of ability unknown a few years back, it redounds to the credit of most of the Academicians exhibitors that they have been able so well to hold their own. Landseer, Herbert, Cope, Elmore, Frith, Hook, Philip, Poole, and Stanfield sustain their well-earned reputations; Millais, John Lewis, and Leighton, lately elected from the ranks, are perhaps the most attractive exhibitors, next to Frith, whose picture this year possesses an extrinsic interest for a large crowd of sightseers.

Among the pictures of high pretensions in the

class of scriptural subjects, Herbert's "Sower of Good Seed" will probably be the most popular. The treatment adopted is the same as that in the Westminster frescoes, upon which the artist has been engaged for so many years—namely the substitution of the modern Eastern physiognomy, and the actual Oriental life, for the traditional types that have come down to us from Italian sources. Who shall venture to pronounce dogmatically in favour either of the ancient or the modern interpretation by painting of the facts of Scriptural History? To those who are deeply moved by Da Vinci and Raphael, "The Encampment of the Children of Israel at the foot of Sinai," at Westminster, is but a congregation of Bedouin Arabs and their Chiefs; and the "Christ in the Temple," by Holman Hunt, reflects but the interior of an Eastern Café. To vast numbers of people, these works speak in a new and living voice, and by these the picture of "The Sower" will be appreciated. The parable which it affects to illustrate is so infinite in its reach, that it positively illumines all attempts to illustrate or interpret it, and the thoughtful observer of the picture before us applies the words of the impressive lesson to this young Oriental husbandman scattering freely the seed over the waste, and so connects the action with the Divine author of the Parable. But for this, undeniably pure and elevated as the picture is, it has little spiritual significance, and indicates no remarkable imaginative power.

We may contrast this literal treatment of the scriptural idea with Watts' grand rendering of the aspect of Esau. Here we find that all reference to the contemporary costume of the East has been carefully avoided, and the charms of colour subdued to a merely suggestive tone of harmony; hence the large and imposing character of the figure, which is the solitary example in the Exhibition of a profound acquaintance with the principles upon which the old fresco painters worked.

A third scriptural illustration may here be noted, to our thinking the most impressive picture of its class in the Exhibition, "The Parable of the Tares," by Millais. This work differs from that of Herbert, in being the product of a vivid imagination; and from that of Watts, in its freedom from the conventionalities of the past. The Evil One, in the guise of a wicked old man abroad on a murky gusty night, is revealed by a sudden break of light behind the black rolling clouds, at his wicked work of sowing tares among the wheat. The stealthy action; the suspicious, evil eye, turned in the direction where men are sleeping; the dark form of the figure, lit only by the momentary gleam from behind, which marks its proportions; the slimy reptiles that crawl toward it, as if to approach a kindred spirit, are but parts of a single and powerfully-expressed thought, and the design is one of the finest ever produced by the painter. The present picture is an attempt to carry out in colours the design which was originally drawn upon wood, and published as one of a set of "The Parables," some two years back; but although a magnificent study of colour, we cannot help feeling that the picture is less impressive than the drawing, and that force and reality are gained by the sacrifice to some extent of the spirituality of the thought.

Another scriptural picture of great power we may notice here, the work of an artist who enjoys the distinguished position of having been the foremost pupil of Delaroche. "Esther's Banquet," by Armitage, is the most complete work that has yet appeared by this accomplished painter. The subject is Haman interceding with Esther to save his life; "for he saw that there was evil determined against him by the King," and the moment chosen by the painter is that when the King in his wrath enters the banqueting-hall of the palace, and discovers Haman on his knees at the couch of Esther, entreating her to save his life. "Then said the King, Will he force the Queen also before me in the house? As the word went out of the King's mouth, they covered Haman's face." A highly dramatic action is suggested here, and the painter has fully apprehended its force; he has been able to steer a right course between a weak interpretation of the story on the one hand, and theatrical display on the other; it is a work of great erudition, open perhaps to the exception which may be taken to an undue exhibition of anatomical knowledge, yet it is neither French nor German in thought or manner, but a result of good English thought, produced by a hand unfettered by the schools wherein its craft was learnt. For composition and well-conceived action it may be taken as an example by our younger

painters, who are often disposed to underrate those qualities which are rightly prized by foreign schools, forgetful that they are the basis of all good art.

The "David" of Leighton is the last illustration of a Scripture subject we shall notice at present. The subject must often have been suggested to many minds, by the pathetic passage in Psalm lv.: "O that I had wings like a dove: for then I would fly away and be at rest." The Jewish King is represented seated on the terrace of the house, his head wistfully turned in the direction whither the doves are bending their flight. This is the plain and natural conception of the passage that would be formed in most minds; the merit of the picture, therefore, lies not in any original idea presented to us—for which, we confess, we are thankful in this case—but in the treatment of the common thought about the subject; and in this respect, we think the artist deserves the highest praise. We have seldom regarded any picture in our modern Exhibitions with more pleasure. The common thought about David's musings has never risen to the idea of the poetic sky, which is so suggestive of rest. A Jew in character, large in frame, and of kingly countenance, wearied by enemies, bent by care, this figure of David is one of the noblest productions of an English artist, monumental in style and most impressive in effect. It is far in advance of the large picture of "Ahab and Jezebel," exhibited by the same painter two years since, with which it might be favourably contrasted in almost every respect, size included—an element which, as far as we have observed, has hitherto proved to be a condition rather of weakness than of strength in its influence upon the character of the artist's work.

There are other scriptural pieces of great merit in the present Exhibition; but we have taken those only which appear to us to be distinguished by some originality, either of conception or of treatment. It would be wrong to ignore the claims of so good a picture as the "Christ descendu de la Croix" of M. Signol, but that to us it appears to be a repetition of that conventional treatment of the great theme of Christianity invented for the use of a particular Church. Neither do we forget Mr. Barwell's "Young Saviour observing the Hypocrites," which, though open to fair criticism on the ground of probability—for although the Lord discerned the hypocrisy of the Pharisees, we do not remember that they themselves proclaimed it—is yet in many respects a remarkable performance. "Elijah's Sacrifice," by Mr. A. Moore, deserves serious attention rather for the indications it shows of the power of thinking which the painter evidently possesses, than for the execution of the picture, which is confused and incoherent. Mr. Gale's highly-finished and most powerfully coloured transcript of an Eastern woman, described in the catalogue as "A Woman having an Alabaster Box of very precious Ointment," is probably hardly intended for a representation of the Magdalene, although in painting the modern women of Palestine the scriptural idea had taken possession of the artist's mind. The class of pictures illustrative of the Bible records is a very small one in this Exhibition, and we have noted the works that belong to it in the first place, both because they are the exponents of the most worthy subjects, and also because some of them may be reckoned among the best pictures in the collection. Next week we hope to speak of some of those works which may fairly be called the great attractions of the Exhibition.

MUSIC.

"L'ETOILE DU NORD" AT COVENT GARDEN.

FORTUNE has not been kind this season to our operatic managers. Mishaps have occurred in the *personnel* of both troops which have seriously crippled their resources, and prevented or delayed the production of the works which the public most desired to see. The reappearance of the great opera of Meyerbeer's is thus the first really interesting incident of the season. To a great part of our home public "L'Etoile du Nord" is still almost a new work. That it was known to all English opera-goers before the revival of last summer, was due less to the few performances of it given at the end of a season ten years back (the season before the great fire) than to the circumstance that it has been played some hundreds of times in the French theatre most popular with English

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travellers; and it yet remains to be seen whether the only finished work of its composer which rivals in scale the great trio of dramas, "Robert," the "Prophète," and the "Huguenots," will take its place in the history of music, or in the affections of musicians, by the side of those memorable masterpieces. Unfortunately, the presentment of the piece now offered is not one to increase its chance of winning popular favour. The casualties of operatic management, and the graver "changes and chances of this mortal life," have made the cast of 1865 a sorry contrast to that of 1855. The list of ten years ago recalls the not easily forgotten names of Bosio and Lablache, and of another singer, M. Zelger, who, though no genius, had merits which have many times since made his loss regretted. The other prominent members of that troop, Herr Formes and Signor Gardoni, are gone from Covent Garden, Madame Rudersdorff only remaining, and she is still, happily for the effect of some of the most difficult points in a very difficult piece, as vigorous and full-voiced a *vivandière* as she was a decade of years ago. The place of Madame Carvalho, who would be playing *Catharine* this season but for the extraordinary success of the "Enchanted Flute" at her own theatre in Paris, is taken—we can hardly say filled—by the lady to whom Meyerbeer entrusted the "creation" of the part. But the voice and the powers which the exacting composer dignified by this choice in 1854 have felt too much the wearing effect of time to be capable of the same task now, least of all in an arena whose size makes a redundancy of physical force a necessary condition of success. Madame Duprez' singing has lost none of its delicacy and finish, and but very little of its brilliancy, but the music of the voice is gone. Not a note, indeed, of her most brilliant passages but is heard throughout the house (except at points where any voice would be equally crushed by the weight of the Meyerbeerian orchestra), but the tone is thin and thready, and such "expression" as it might be capable of is obliterated by the ceaseless straining to reach the requisite degree of loudness. It is thus only by courtesy that the rôle of first soprano remains the leading part, for Madame Duprez is quite overmatched in the concerted music by the competition of a young-voiced *Prasovia*, Mdle. Liebbart. The part of the hero, too, the most important in the piece, has to be filled by a substitute in the person of M. Atry. This gentleman is doing duty for M. Faure, whom the "Africaine" at the Grand Opera cannot yet spare, and it would be flattery to say that he makes us forget the accomplished French baritone, whose acting of the part of the Czar-Shipwright is as spirited as his singing is thorough. *Peter* has to sing in the last act a song as melodious as Meyerbeer ever wrote for a bass voice, not excepting the somewhat similarly-placed romance for *Hoel* in "Dinorah," but it would be hard for any one who knew the tune to believe that it could be made so uninteresting as it becomes in M. Atry's mouth. "L'Etoile" is one of the very few grand operas in which there is no part for a tenor of the first force. Meyerbeer here, as in the "Prophète," where he made the contralto, and not the soprano, the heroine, seems to have pleased himself by a departure from the conventional rule. But the absence of Signor Naudin, who is also detained at the Grand Opera (as the *Vasco de Gama* designated by the composer), is nevertheless felt. The part which he took last year is now played by a M. St. Hilaire, from the Opéra Comique of Paris, who was lately heard at the Crystal Palace concerts), and the other tenor part by the always welcome Signor Neri-Baraldi. This is not, as we have said, an efficient cast, and it is not surprising that the opera has been but coolly received. The drawbacks under which it has been presented—drawbacks which no management could prevent—are a good illustration of the great difficulties imported into musical enterprises by the modern system of large operas and large opera houses. The expansion of opera to the dimensions of the Meyerbeerian drama, with its vast hosts of actors, its elaborate musical combinations, and its costly scenic accessories, has doubtless given us some magnificent results, but we are made sometimes to feel how dearly these are purchased. Works involving the co-operation of but a few artists and a moderate outlay could be "put on" or "taken off" at no serious cost or risk, as the exigencies of the opportunity or necessity demanded. When the "mounting" of a piece was not a matter of thousands of pounds, a theatre could afford to have a numerous *répertoire*. It was not necessary, as it now

is, to "run" an opera at the risk of its being ill done, in order to recover an enormous outlay of capital on its production. Now the stakes played, pecuniarily speaking, are so high, that managers naturally flinch from the loss involved by changes and substitutions. If Madame A is ill or absent, a Madame A1 must be found, in order that the services of Mesdames and MM. B, C, D, E, &c. (to *n* terms) may not be wasted. Then, a vast spectacle demands a vast stage, and when you have a vast stage, you must, *pari ratione*, make every opera you play a vast spectacle to fill it. A piece which in a moderate-sized theatre would cost a moderate sum, now costs thousands of pounds. The commonest accessories become costly: your sky has to be ordered by hundreds of yards, a plain landscape background becomes an immense panorama, every house becomes a palace, and the village church a Westminster Abbey. The space that is wanted for the display of all this splendour multiplies tenfold the cost of your vocal department. Instead of having the choice of all the well-trained singers in Europe, you have to select only from the small proportion of them who have voices large enough to fill the huge building in which you ask them to sing. Voices of moderate power, however sweet they may be, however perfectly cultivated, are of no use to you. You must get, at all cost and at all risks, the "robust," those or none. That is, you must choose from two or three phenomenal wonders instead of from hundreds of trained artists possessing the average of human powers. No wonder that opera is expensive. Fought for by the richest aristocracies in the world, how can our Patis and Titians be other than costly luxuries?

If any way is ever to be found out of these difficulties, it will probably be by the establishment of theatres of medium size—of about the scale, say, of the Opéra Comique or the Théâtre Lyrique, as a supplement to the Grand Opera-house which should be one of the possessions of every rich capital. Such noble palaces of music as the theatre in Covent Garden and the Imperial house now building on the Boulevards would still claim a monopoly of the grander musical dramas—the "Guillaume Tell" and the "Prophètes;" while every kind of opera or operetta, whether by Gluck or Mozart, Balfe or Macfarren, might be played in the lesser houses for the benefit of the myriad.

We cannot dismiss the opera which has suggested this bit of speculation without adding a word of praise for the *ensemble* of the execution. In spite of the absence of the star singers, the greatest passages in the piece go off with admirable spirit. When we examine one of these tremendous scores of Meyerbeer, it seems a wonder that music so difficult, so complicated, making such extreme demands on the skill and patience of hundreds of performers, should be sung at all. To hear it done as Mr. Costa gets his company to do it—that it is to say, with such very slight deviations from the intention of the composer—is to witness a rare triumph of organizing skill.

MUSICAL NOTES.

THE operas played at Her Majesty's Theatre, during the past two weeks, have not been such as to need special report. The *Lucrezia* and *Norma* of Mdle. Titians are, or should be, familiar to every opera-goer. Of the new tenor, M. Joulain, who has been gathering laurels in the provincial performances of the company, and of Mdle. de Murska, a contralto of whom much is expected, we hope to be able to speak next week.

WE are glad to notice that Mdle. Fioretti, a soprano singer who was rapidly making her way on the Covent Garden stage two years ago, when a sudden flight carried her off to the continent, has again joined Mr. Gye's company. She will be a very helpful acquisition. Mdle. Patti's appearance has been delayed by indisposition till the end of this week.

To what curious places and curious shifts poor "English Opera" seems, ever and anon, to betake itself. Now it is making itself heard at Astley's, under the auspices of Mr. E. T. Smith. The first performance appears to have been—we quote in substance from a distinguished daily contemporary—an odd pasticcio, founded on Bishop's "Guy Mannering." Some good singing there must have been—one or two of the singers are good—but it must be funny to see Miss Pyne (as *Julia Mannering*) step forward and sing "The Power of Love," and Mr. Weiss volunteer "The Wolf" of Shield. That Bishop himself may

have his share of the improvements, Mr. Vernon Rigby is allowed to display his very agreeable tenor voice in "My pretty Jane." When this play, we remember, was produced at the Haymarket some years ago, Miss Oliver, who was discovered, as the curtain rose, in the character of *Lucy Bertram*, dressed in deep mourning for her father, and looking very pathetic as the helpless orphan, presently used to come to the footlights and favour the audience with "Max-welton braes are bonny," &c. Does Mr. Smith's *Lucy* sing "Annie Laurie?" or "God bless the Prince of Wales?" or what?

THE Matinée of the Musical Union, on Tuesday, should not be soon forgotten by the members who were present. The highest order of playing could not be put to a higher use than it was in the performance of Beethoven's Trio in D (Op. 70) by MM. Hallé, Joachim, and Piatti. The slow movement is one of the most grandly mysterious imaginations that ever the soul of Beethoven gave utterance to, and these three great artists played it in such a way, that every listener must have felt its solemnity.

AT a recent meeting of shareholders of the English Opera Company, the proceedings of which are reported in the *Orchestra*, it was stated that the receipts of the first season had amounted to 60,000*l.*, and the expenses to 65,000*l.* A further call of 1*l.* per share was agreed to. The Company had paid 1,500*l.* for the exclusive right to play the "Africaine" in England.

THE *Orchestra* states that the medical attendants of Signor Giuglini have given up nearly all hope of his recovery.

DR. BENNETT has published, we are glad to see, a solo pianoforte arrangement of the beautiful little minuet and trio from his last symphony (in G minor).

MADAME ARABELLA GODDARD'S benefit was on Monday evening last, and a most delightful evening it made. The programme contained nothing but well-known gems, which have often and often charmed Madame Goddard's hearers, and which will be liked the more the oftener they are played in the future. Mr. Sims Reeves sang the quaint little serenade from Gounod's "Mock Doctor."

MR. COSTA'S new oratorio, "Naaman," will be repeated by the Sacred Harmonic Society, at Exeter Hall, on Friday evening, under the direction of the composer. Madame Rudersdorff, Madame Sainton-Dolby, Mr. Sims Reeves, Mr. Cummings, and Mr. Santley will support the parts originally allotted to them at the Birmingham Musical Festival, in September last. The character of *Adah*, the young captive maiden, will be sustained by Miss Edmonds, a youthful debutante.

THE Monday Concert of the coming week is to be a "Schumann Night," with Madame Schumann as the pianist. This is not only a happy way of giving a welcome to a great artist, but a well-timed recognition of the increased acceptance which the composer's works have met with among English musicians during the last few years. In a few years more the coolness with which the works of an undoubted genius were at first received among us will be looked back upon with surprise. One thing to be noted in the matter is, that the change of opinion has been steadily in opposition to the critical judgments which have most currency.

THOSE who should know, report that the music in the revival of "Comus" at Drury Lane is worth hearing. It introduces, among other things, a pleasant chorus by Bishop, "Ring out, ye crystal spheres," Arne's "Sweet echo," which Miss Augusta Thompson sings, and Handel's laughing chorus, "Haste thee, nymph," from *L'Allegro*.

MUSIC FOR NEXT WEEK.

MAY 15 to 20.

- MONDAY.—Popular Concert, "Schumann Night," St. James's Hall, 8 p.m.
Philharmonic Concert, Hanover Square Rooms, 8 p.m.
M. and Madame Sainton-Dolby's Concert, St. James's Hall, 3 p.m.
Mdle. Mathilde Martin's Concert, Collard's Rooms, 3 p.m.
- TUESDAY.—London Glee and Madrigal Union, Collard's Rooms, Morning.
Concert, Wandering Minstrels (for Charing Cross Hospital), Hanover Square Rooms, 8.30 p.m.
- WEDNESDAY.—Mr. J. B. Chatterton's Concert, Drury Lane Theatre, 2 p.m.
- FRIDAY.—Mr. Hallé's Third Recital, St. James's Hall, 3 p.m.
- SATURDAY.—Crystal Palace Opera Concert.
- OPERAS.—Covent Garden, "Barbiere," "Etoile du Nord," "Rigoletto," "Lucia," &c.
Her Majesty's, "Lucrezia Borgia," "Norma," &c.

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THE DRAMA.

MR. FALCONER'S NEW PLAY AT DRURY-LANE
—MISS BATEMAN AS BIANCA IN "FAZIO."

THE combination of author and actor is not rare, and is occasionally highly satisfactory. M. Boucicault, at the Princess's, is now performing, with admirable skill, the principal part in the exceedingly good melodrama of which he is the author, and in the history both of our own stage and of the French examples of similar success are not uncommon. Mr. Falconer has several times shown himself ambitious of this double renown, and has of late specially demanded public approbation for the lengthy play which he produced at Drury-lane on the 3rd of this month, and in which he acted one of the principal characters. We say "specially demanded" because, in a kind of preface, the author has been good enough to explain what the particular merits of his drama are. From this very amusing proem we learn that Mr. Falconer's modest endeavour has been "to give a larger and more truthful picture in action than has hitherto been presented on the stage of the pre-existing social antagonisms and rival class characteristics, which in ferment produced the great French Revolution of 1789;" that he has aimed at limning representative members of what, with fine knowledge of French genders, he terms the "*haut noblesse*," and that "he has attempted to present, in the character of *Robespierre*, an historical portrait not altogether new, but very different to the generally-accredited likeness of the celebrated triumvir and dictator."

A work thus heralded merits some attention; and it may be interesting to give an account of "Love's Ordeal; or, the Old and New Régime." The plot is complicated, and not very easily described. The hero, *Eugene de Morny*, though of noble birth and lofty principle, has been so little appreciated by the world, that at the beginning of the play he is occupying no higher position than that of steward to the *Count d'Ostanges*, whose daughter, *Hortense*, has a strong liking for her father's domestic, restrained, however, by her mother's remonstrances, and by the feeling that it is not correct to flirt with one of the upper servants. It need hardly be said that she is madly but secretly loved by *Eugene*. *Mademoiselle d'Ostanges* is asked in marriage by the *Duc de Chartreux*, who is apparently the representative of the old régime, and whose principal characteristic appears to be a kind of mild naughtiness. It is, of course, incumbent on this nobleman to fall out with the high-minded steward, and this he does on three separate occasions—first, on his attempting to throw out of the window of an inn *Robespierre*, who had certainly been making himself very unpleasant; secondly, on his trying to kiss a pretty girl without permission; and, thirdly—with a slight monotony of incident—on his trying to kiss another pretty girl, also without permission. This last time, however, it is felt that things cannot go on any longer without a fight, and accordingly the mildly-naughty duke and the high-minded steward do fight a duel in the gardens of *M. d'Ostanges's* chateau, but not, alas! until the steward has stated at considerable length his opinions upon the impropriety of being rude to young ladies. The duke, of course, is worsted in the conflict, being wounded in the arm, and the *Countess d'Ostanges* and *Hortense* arrive to find their friend thus unpleasantly treated by the combative major-domo. The bitter prejudices of *Madame d'Ostanges* lead her to regard the trifling offence of pinking one of her guests in a very serious light; but the duke, moved by a variety of considerations, intercedes, and the high-minded steward receives no worse punishment than immediate dismissal without a character or a month's wages, while the duke is left to recover under the care of *Hortense*.

Four years now elapse, and when the curtain next rises it is found that the French Revolution has taken place, that *Robespierre*, or as the Drury-lane actors prefer to pronounce it, "*Robsphear*," is in power, and that the steward, having probably failed to get another place, has come out as a patriot with considerable success. *M. d'Ostanges*, his daughter, and the duke, the two last being now betrothed, are under sentence of death, having been hunted down by the villain of the piece, one *Lavarences*, who is divided between a general desire to do mischief and a wish to marry *Mademoiselle*

d'Ostanges. He compromises matters by offering to contrive the escape of the whole party from the Temple, where they are imprisoned, if *Hortense* will promise to become his wife. But here the somewhat sententious, but highly moral *Eugene*, intervenes, defeats the villain with his own weapons, and conducts the whole party out of gaol, leaving *M. Lavarences* to gnash his teeth after the most approved fashion. The next scene brings forward "*Robsphear*," who is so good as to vindicate himself and his actions in some rhetorical speeches which would doubtless be better appreciated by the honest Drury-lane audience if they had the smallest idea who *Robespierre* was, or what he did.

Quitting, after awhile, generalities for practical life, "*Robsphear*," in accordance with his well-known practice of saving every one he could from the guillotine, provides for the safety of *Mademoiselle d'Ostanges* and her father, by allowing the lady to contract a civil marriage with the ever high-minded *Eugene*, who then takes off his civil wife, civil father-in-law, and the duke to country lodgings. Thither after them flies the villain *Lavarences*, bent on doing such mischief as he may; but his powers are limited, and his success partial only. The lady, as the civil wife of a patriot, is safe, the duke hides himself, and the *Count d'Ostanges*, who, like many old gentlemen, is testy and impatient in argument, gets into such a passion at the bad manners and atrocious principles of the republicans, that he has a fit, and opportunely dies. Thus foiled, *Lavarences* has nothing left but to look for the duke. That aristocrat, mildly naughty to the last, is making love to a country beauty. Her husband discovers what is going on, and, frantically jealous, fires a vaguely-directed pistol, which in some way kills *Lavarences* instead of the duke. Difficulties are now nearly at an end. *Mademoiselle d'Ostanges* learns in a letter from a friend that the duke is no better than he should be, and begins to appreciate the high-minded *Eugene*. The latter becomes very eloquent, though a trifle noisy, and delivers himself of some speeches which touch the gallery to the heart. The lady listens to him very patiently, and when at last he is quite out of breath, apologetically remarks that she loves him devotedly. Nothing then remains for her but to cement her civil marriage by such religious ceremonies as may be thought desirable, and, let it be hoped, to see her papa buried; but on this latter point the personages in the play are silent.

Such is the story told in the remarkable drama which Mr. Falconer is quite justified in calling original. The language is also worthy of some attention, more particularly as the author informs us in his delightful preface that he has been at considerable pains to make the dialogue "in occasional passages characteristically epigrammatic, and throughout poetically coloured and musical." In fulfilment of this excellent intention, he has written it in an indescribable kind of blank verse, which makes the more ambitious speeches sound like leaders from the *Morning Star* cut up into lengths. But that true talent which treats the commonest subjects with poetic feeling is obvious throughout, as some specimens will show. How pleasing is it to find that the bald language of the penny-a-liner can, by a skilful hand, be worked into verse, as shown in the following termination:—

— whose name for obvious reasons we suppress.

In like manner a sentiment familiar in youth rises into dignity under poetic treatment.

He never spoke except when spoken to,

is a line which should find a place in every copy-book. In the same way a precept often heard in the nursery is delivered with extraordinary force by the hero, who, nerving himself for an act of self-sacrifice, exclaims:—

But I must gulp the bitters, else they taste.

These quotations are given from memory only, but perusal of the play, when published, will, we believe, prove their accuracy, and will doubtless disclose many similar beauties, and show how fully justified was the fastidious critic of *The Times* in declaring that much of the language bore testimony "to the known poetical feeling of Mr. Edmund Falconer."

The actors charged with interpreting such a work of art were generally quite equal to their parts. "*Robsphear*" is played by Mr. Falconer himself, and very amusing he is, an Irish accent giving great raciness to his impersonation of the dictator. Mr. Edmund Phelps is the high-minded *Eugene de Morny*; Mr. Walter Lacy, the *Duc de Chartreux*; Mr. Neville, the *Count d'Ostanges*; and Mrs. Herman Vezin, *Hortense d'Ostanges*.

These artists shows in their respective characters the fervid and passionate feeling, the graceful bearing, and the perfect assumption of the manners of the "*haut noblesse*" which is to be looked for on the modern stage. The pronunciation of the French, too, is such as may be expected from the highly-educated English actor—*d'Ostanges* is *d'Ostangez*, *Bourbon*, *Bourbon*, *Mademoiselle*, *Ma'meselle*, and so forth.

It may perhaps be thought that too much space has been given to this account of the last addition to our dramatic literature. But let it be remembered that this strange production has been brought out at the leading theatre, and is the work of the manager of that theatre, a gentleman who has been of late much lauded, and most justly lauded, for his honest attempt to restore Drury Lane to its traditional position. He has now produced a work of his own, in which it would have been gratifying to find something to praise; but which, though giving no opportunity for serious criticism, still demands consideration, as showing the present state of our stage.

While Mr. Falconer is condemning his patrons to pass through an ordeal of his own contriving, Mr. Webster is making his offering to "legitimacy" in the shape of a revival of "*Fazio*," a tragedy in which Miss O'Neill and Miss Fanny Kemble are said to have dissolved their audiences in tears. We can scarcely believe this. Considered as poem or drama, it is inconceivable how such trash can have been successful, or even tolerated, outraging as it does in conception every law of nature, in execution every rule of art. The plot, such as it is, is at once absurd and revolting, while, throughout the stilted dialogue, pathos alternates with coarseness. Fancy the heroine in the last scene interrupted in the outpouring of her sorrows by such a remark as this: "What means the wild-haired maniac?" Yet "*Fazio*" is a fair specimen of the kind of stuff which delighted generations of play-goers. Mrs. Siddons was as attractive in *Belvidera* as in *Lady Macbeth*, and the tribute of tears was as readily paid to Miss O'Neill's *Bianca* as to her *Juliet*. Perhaps our taste has not so much deteriorated, after all.

As to Miss Bateman, for whom this play has been revived, we confess that we know not what to make of her. She is a riddle and a contradiction. She has a beautiful face, but no variety of facial expression; a beautiful voice, but an accent that is at times painfully jarring. She has, far more than any living English actress, the power of infusing into a single sentence an intensity of expression, whether of scorn, hate, or tenderness; but sometimes she is tame and monotonous for scenes together. Nor is it in the expression of any one passion that she invariably succeeds or fails. In *Leah* she was ineffective in the quiet portions of the character (at least in the earlier acts), which are the best points in her performance of *Bianca*. Some of her tones and expressions are exquisitely beautiful, especially the way in which she moans out, in the last scene:—

Is thy brain fire to hear it?
Mine is, mine is, mine is.

No pen can describe the intensity of suffering and sorrow she concentrates in the last few words. In marked contrast to this, but equally admirable, is the bitter, shuddering tone in which she says, when the outraged wife learns that her husband is in the arms of her rival:—

If he kiss me,
He'll pause, and think which of the two is sweeter.

Such inspirations as these (for they are no less) convince us, whatever may be said to the contrary, that Miss Bateman's merits are of a very high order. But her inequalities and deficiencies are such, that we doubt if she will ever be recognized as a great actress. We believe that she will never do anything so well, that it will not be marked by something signally bad, or so ill, that it will not be redeemed by something strikingly fine. But let her shun such stupidities as the "*Hunchback*" and "*Fazio*." The times are past when the claims of an actress to a place in the first rank could not be allowed till she had poured forth a certain number of reams of very blank verse. Miss Bateman cannot venture on a Shakespearian part at the Adelphi, and she must choose between that and *drame*. At present, her *Leah* remains her finest, as it was her first character.

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